

the committee amendments and to allow this good cooperative agreement to continue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I think it's one of those occasions where to debate the committee amendments you have to understand the bill. So I think at this time I'll spend a little bit of time explaining what the bill is, how it affects committee amendments. And for those of you new to the body, particularly new since 1986 when we last visited this issue, I'll give you a little bit of history of how we got to here. Now, I know my seatmate, Senator Schmit, lived through that. I think he could probably give you a better history than I can, but if I'm incorrect I'm sure Senator Schmit will quickly stand up and correct me and I appreciate that. But the fact is, here is what happened. You know, the predecessor of our present natural resources districts in some areas are these groundwater conservation districts and Senator Kremer and Senator Schmit and others, when the NRD's came into being in the 1970s, it was agreed upon that the groundwater conservation districts were serving a useful purpose. Well obviously, somebody at some time, somewhere said, well, you know these groundwater conservation districts are really doing the work that the NRD's should do, and I cannot deny that. And for whatever reason, at some point in time they said, well, why have two organizations doing the same thing, and so eventually the other groundwater conservation districts ceased. At some point in time a sunset was put on there and we've revisited this issue a couple of times. I know in the past Senator Kremer, when he was still around, supported the extension of these and a variety of people have. But if you look at the committee statement on this bill you will notice that the testifiers on the bill, you had obviously the groundwater conservation districts in support of the bill and also the Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District in support of the bill and then the only opponent was the NARD, the Nebraska Association of Resource District. And I understand that when you look at the principle of it, you can look at it just on a piece of paper and say, well, these groundwater conservation districts are supposed to be doing the same thing the NRD is, and that is true. What has happened in the last 15 years actually is you basically have one NRD, the Upper Big Blue NRD, that contains, I think, five of the six of these groundwater conservation districts. And you will notice that the Upper Big Blue NRD which contains these five, five of the