

six at least, comes in and supports the bill. Why is that? Well the reason is that the Upper Big Blue NRD and the groundwater conservation districts have a working relationship and there is no duplication of service taking place there. It works. I know the adage is much overused on this floor, but I simply bring this bill here because if it ain't broke, don't fix it. What you have is an organization for one that does its work in a very costly and efficient manner. The total budget of these...the five groundwater conservation districts that I'm involved with, the total budget is under \$90,000. With that \$90,000 they employ one person that gets involved in groundwater quality testing, ground moisture blocks, putting moisture blocks out on our farm and my farm and others where you measure how dry the soil is in irrigation. They are involved in irrigation scheduling. They are involved in well monitoring, depth monitoring to see in a dry year what the depth of the well is. They are doing a lot of good work. Now granted, if the groundwater conservation district went away in '92, the NRD is perfectly within their authority to do that work. Could they do it cheaper? I don't know. Would they spend more money? I don't know. What I do know is we have a system that is working. We have a system that does not duplicate the services received by these people. We have a system that actually, if you did away with these groundwater conservation districts, the NRD would continue to do them, but what you would lose, you would lose about 45 board members in the different counties that go to meetings once a month that are involved in irrigation scheduling, involved in water conservation and you have 45 people who then go back to the coffee shop in Benedict...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...and Hebron and all over the place and share with their friends and farmers why we need to be good stewards of our water, why we need to be good stewards of our land. As I said, I don't know if the NRD actually could do it cheaper, but I know that it's hard to put a price tag on those board members that are out there being educated as to what is going on and sharing with their neighbors what the best way is to do it. And so I...the reason I'm opposed to the committee amendments, I do not know Senator Lamb's intentions on getting them on there, but I do know that I can come back in in three years and argue this again or in five years. I prefer to wait five years, but the one thing I do not want to do is put an indefinite, you know, let this go on forever. I think it is something that should be