

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler, we'll now proceed to Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think this issue has been well washed this morning. The issue before us is not to...whether or not to continue to have this particular groundwater conservation district, but rather how long. I think that, not to belabor the point, but we should pay particular attention to the fact that the proponents of this included the NRD in which it is located. So if they are working together well, whether it's three years or five years, I think we'll find that if we extend it three years and five years, this particular entity will still be operating. Do what you will, three years or five years, but it is a system that is working. I'm going to go for five years.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. We'll now proceed to Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it's not very often that I get the opportunity to correct my good friend, Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, when Senator Kremer was in this body there wasn't any Natural Resources Committee. It was the Public Works Committee at that time, not a major error, but it is one that we want to make note of because I don't get very many chances to correct you. Secondly, the only real reason for the amendment, from five to three, is that it keeps Senator Moore and Senator Rod Johnson a little humble by making them come back in a little more frequently and ask for that extension because we all know that we're going to keep it out there. I think that the point has been made, they do good work, this conservation district, is doing good work. One of the problems that we have not acknowledged on on this floor nor with dollars is the fact that we have greatly expanded the responsibilities of the natural resource districts over the past 20 years. During my last conversation with Senator Chambers, Senator Kremer before nis death was the recognition by Senator Kremer that many of the responsibilities that we had delegated to the natural resource districts were unheard of at the time the districts were, in fact, involved. So then the question is, why should we leave the conservation district out there? Well, those of us who are farmers know that the main impetus to a good farm operation is having someone in the district or in the neighborhood who gets out early in the spring and keeps his crops on schedule and keeps his cultivating on schedule and keeps his crops looking