

see them coming down to the Legislature and pleading for the Legislature to do away with the authority and the reason is because they know it's working. They know it's working in a very efficient manner, but if the body is so wise, they think we need to come back in three years and look at it, that's fine with me. I think five years would be more reasonable but as I mentioned, I happen to agree. At some point in time this working relationship may deteriorate to the point where we need to look at it. That has not happened yet. What we have is an entity that had a lot of people involved in groundwater quality, groundwater conservation and I think I'm like, I think Senator Beutler said, do you want to send a message of proliferation that groundwater is not important enough to have one entity do it, I think the fact is that you have more people involved in this very critical juncture in the life-span of working with the environment, the more the merrier. In this case you have more merry people that understand it from the farmer's perspectives and making it work. But there is certainly enough votes to make, pack it back down to three years. I can live with that. I simply ask the body to move the bill over.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. We'll now go to Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I simply rise to support the bill's advancement as amended by this body. The bill effectively becomes the committee amendment which extends the life of this conservation district for three more years. One side note, this is my first official act as Natural Resources Chair and I lost to my committee, I lose to the Legislature, Senator Schmit, I have greater appreciation of your role in this committee slot. But it is a relationship that has been developed over years and there is good acceptance within the district I think, but philosophically, Senator Hillman and I were just discussing, should the NRD be doing this kind of work? The answer is probably yes, but because of the acceptance that they have received from principally the affected parties, the farmers, I think the conservation districts in our area at least, in Senator Moore and Coordsen's and mine, seem to work well. But I assume that there will be a time when the actual merger of these two groups will take place. I don't know when that might be, but if you have a program that is working and is being accepted by those who are doing the irrigating, I think it's very important that we continue their extension at least during this period of transition, I guess, as we see it.