

money they would spend. Arguably, it could be argued they would do it, could do it cheaper. I'd have to see that to believe it, but the possibility of them spending a lot more money certainly is there. And does there come a time when they have to necessarily have to go away? Well, in my opinion, no. And the reason I say that is that now you have, I believe, 21 NRD board members from this 7, 8 county area. Now if you do with the groundwater, you know, now you have the 21 NRD board members plus the 45 groundwater conservation board members. They are all involved in kind of the same thing. What happens in my opinion, would be the very important issue of groundwater quality and quantity. Now if you did away with them, that would be 45 less people going to meetings and understand what is going on. And as long as it is working, I don't care if it goes on till now and 2050, as long as it works. Obviously given my particular philosophy, there comes a point in time where I don't think it's cost effective, I think there is duplication, I'll be the person introducing the bill to do away with it. For the time being, and it's hard for me to impress upon those that are not affected by it, you have something that is working quite well and working very cost efficient.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Do I have some time left?

SPEAKER BAACK: A minute and a half.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Good. I guess I don't know all the ins and outs of this, but it would appear to me that if it was, in fact, '71 when we went into NRD's, my question still hasn't been answered as to whether other groundwater districts have gone out of existence in that time, or if this was the only one in the state, but it seems to me that if we're going to...it was intended to do this over time, this bill with three years may be more realistic than five. I know those of you, Senator Johnson, Senator Moore and Senator Coordsen consider this kind of a local issue, but on the other hand if NRD's are intended to take over this if there is not too much concern that they can't do the job properly, if not as well, I would just wonder why we need to continue groundwater districts.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. We'll now proceed to Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: I have a question for Senator Moore. Could you tell me, do you feel there is any duplication, their