

well thought out manner, I'd urge you to support this and Senator Conway's amendment. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Morrissey. The next speaker is Senator Dierks.

**SENATOR DIERKS:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I was interested in some of the conversation here this afternoon and I'm having a little difficulty understanding why we would place the ecological or environmental problems we're talking about concerning river bottoms with the Game and Parks Commission. That looks to me like a place for recreational environment rather than environment environment and I can't...I don't know that I know that the Game and Parks Commission would do a poor job. I think their thrust would be a little different area than what the intent of this bill is. The Natural Resources Commission, on the other hand, has done an outstanding job of protecting our waterways, protecting the quality of the water, protecting banks from erosion, protecting human health as a matter of fact from the effects of nitrates, nitrites, coliforms. I think that what we're really looking at in this piece of legislation is those type of protections. I have difficulty with the Game and Parks involvement with this situation at all. The NRDs are very involved with their own watersheds, understand all the different characteristics of each one of these watersheds. We have a watershed up in the Upper Niobrara, the Lower Niobrara that's much different than that in the Upper Elkhorn and the Lower Elkhorn, different types of soil. Game and Parks Commission hasn't gotten into that sort of thing, that isn't their bailiwick. The bailiwick of the Natural Resources Commission is what we should be talking about here and I'm going to have to oppose this amendment. I think that we're on the wrong track with that. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Horgan.

**SENATOR HORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I would rise in support of Senator Lindsay's amendment. I think the problem that we're having here is there is some confusion over what we as a body mean when we say scenic river designation. And I think that Senator Lindsay has pointed out that some of us believe that we are looking at concerns for the environment, concerns for recreation and concern for habitat and who better to address those concerns than the Game and Parks Commission? If we're looking for an agency to look at oversight of rivers