

very difficult to handle that large of a board. I am wondering if you have any sense as to what might happen to board representation as far as the number of board members serving on Central's Board. Have you had any discussions with Central relative to that?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Johnson, thank you. Personally, I have not, more indirectly. My sense is the following and it would be better, I guess, if people that might have a closer sense could speak, but my sense is the following, that the Central Board is considering expanding representation, particularly into three areas, three counties, and it could be other counties but at least three. They are grappling now with the ideas of how many per county and does it need to be so many per county or can it be a number, such as three, that would be decided upon county lines but would be at large from a three-county area. Those are questions that they are legally wrestling with at this point. My sense is that they're looking at three additional members rather than nine, and they're looking with their attorneys and with the Power Review Board attorneys to find out what is the proper way and does the charter need to be changed. Those issues still will need to be, will need to be addressed to. What this particular piece of legislation would do is, if in fact they chose to do one per county or two per county or three and they wished to do so, this would remove any question of legality in regards to Keith County, which would...so...because it has irrigation works, it could be included. It does not say, Rod, what exactly Central's Board will do. Those are up for legal discussion and the Power Review Board would have a lot...will have a big role to play in that as well.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I understand that this legislation doesn't address specifics. Another question, as we look at representation, do you also open up the issue of one person, one vote concept as opposed to a countywide representation, if you understand what I'm saying?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, Senator Johnson, that...I think that's the crucial argument of the whole area that we've been talking about for really years now. This amendment does not open that up. However, I think that there...there are two things that could open it up. That would be the resolution that you introduced on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee that will be looking into that and other, many other areas, and a