

the committee amendments and the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Hartnett, your light is the last one on the committee amendments.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Hall, members of the body, the metering, I guess, want to maybe follow up and ask Senator Beutler a question on the committee amendment. As I understand what Senator Schrock is saying, that this in this one area. Is it permissive or is it required of all NRDs?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, Senator, it's totally permissive.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Permissive.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The NRD can choose to do or not to do the metering.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And I guess as I listened to Senator Schrock talk, should this be something that all the NRDs should consider so we can get a better handle on how much water is used across the state? I'm just...you know, I'm just asking a hypothetical question, I guess.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm sure, Senator, that different senators will have a different response to that. My response would be that in most areas of the state, sure, they'll want to think about it. But I could see no reason why they would want to do it. However, as time passed...

SENATOR HARTNETT: At this time you mean.

SENATOR BEUTLER: At this time. As time passes, there will surely be situations in other parts of the state where there are either water shortages or water conflicts that will need to be negotiated out. And just as in this case, the first thing they will need to know is who, in fact, is using how much water. It's like taking it, you know, it's kind of a business sort of thing. If you don't know what your inventory is, if you don't know what you're dealing with, it's hard to...it's hard to make reasonable rules. And so the NRDs will have to be settling more conflicts in the future, and they will need to have the power to determine what the facts are.