

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Wickersham to open on the amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. This is the last of these series of amendments. This one is both technical and substantive in nature. It picks up a reference that we had earlier missed concerning notice to owners of land within the district who are served by the canal company. It conforms to other notice procedures that we already had in the bill. Then in the substantive provisions it provides a new process for an irrigation or an additional process for an irrigation district to appoint a designee to hold a hearing. Remember, the bill provides for the holding of a hearing if it is requested if there is going to be a transfer of water within the district. There was some concern that with some boards it might be difficult to get them together for that specific hearing so it allows those boards to appoint someone to hold the hearing for them and then requires that person to make a recommendation to the board, then the board would act subsequently on the recommendation. So there would be two steps in that process if they chose to use a designee to hold the hearing. And, of course, it sets in place the notice provisions for that hearing and then the process again, as I say, for making a recommendation to the board. I think it makes sense within the context of how the boards might operate and how they might address these issues. If anyone has any particular concerns or issues you wish to raise with regard to it, I'll be happy to discuss it with you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, the substantive item in this amendment was not considered by the Natural Resources Committee. I think we just didn't think about it so I can't speak for the committee but for me, personally, it seems to enhance the bill and deal with the impracticality of certain boards sitting in at large on all these transfers and so at least I, for one, support the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any further discussion on the Wickersham amendment? Seeing none, Senator Wickersham waives closing. The question before you is the adoption of the Wickersham amendment to LB 99. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.