

discussion will be a little bit higher level and a little bit further along than having to do everything again on Select File. So I yield the rest of my time to Senator Beutler if he would take a few minutes and discuss that issue for me, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I thank you. I will take the time to explain in a little more detail of what the amendment does, but I still would like to hear what people are thinking on this debate, whether they really want to get into it or they don't want to get into it. But if you look at the damages provisions of this bill which are Section 15, you'll see that it says a person, and to really understand the bill you need to go back to Section 7 and understand that a person is not what we think of as an individual, but is rather an individual or a firm or a corporation or a public entity, it's the State of Nebraska, it's every institution that you can think of so it is very, very broadly defined. And Section 15, on page 2, looking at the bottom again, page numbers are at the bottom, Section 15 says a person may recover damages for personal injury, death or injury to or loss of personal or real property approximately resulting from a release and you get back into a definition of release too, for all costs of response and there's a definition for response and for damages, for injury to or loss of natural resources including the reasonable costs of assessing and responding to such injury or loss approximately resulting from a release. Okay? That's pretty broad language and I think there's some problems within that language, but that's not really what this amendment is about. What the amendment is about is sections then following, 2 and 3. Not only does the individual have a right to recover, but then it says a state or natural resources district may recover. Well in some sense that is duplicative right there the way I read it because a state or natural resources district is also a person in the paragraph above. But to go on it says, a state or natural resources district...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...may recover damages for injury or loss to natural resources, including reasonable costs of assessing, et cetera, et cetera. Well I don't know of any place else ever that has allowed somebody, an entity to come in and recover for losses of natural resources. If you think about it a minute, there are all kinds of things that need to be sorted out when you have both personal liability against a person, corporation