

economic values, and the purpose of the assessment was to try to put into some order, into some priority system, which of those segments of which rivers are important for those variety of reasons. And it was my thought that if we could do that then maybe we could lessen some of the tension and suspicion between irrigators and those interested in the water for economic reasons and others who are interested in the water for a variety of other reasons, some of which have economic value and some of which don't. I thought it would lessen the tension because we would see that there aren't all that many segments of rivers in this state that have the kind of value that we would all agree upon should be preserved or should be protected in some way, and then we could simply focus our attention on a few places and hopefully, in a few years, get over this continuing debate that we have between interests that are sometimes vaguely described as environmental and vaguely described as the economic interests. But, be that as it may, it will not be a part of legislation this year or perhaps ever because, as I indicated to you, we will go a different route with the hope of making those assessments and getting some kind of validation and relative value placed on the different rivers and river segments, and then proceed from that point if in the event that the Environmental Trust sees fit to approve the project. So, with that and without taking any more of your time, I would simply ask you to vote no on this segment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Is there any discussion on the fourth section of the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Beutler to close. Closing is waived. The question before the body is the adoption of the fourth section of the committee amendments to LB 584. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 0 ayes, 18 nays on adoption of the fourth component of the committee amendments, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The fourth component to the committee amendment fails. Senator Bernard-Stevens announces the following guests are visiting the Legislature today: Brandon Lavaley from Sutherland, Steve Arnold, Tim Beveridge, Marnell Rickett, and Mrs. Patty O'Malley are all here from Sutherland participating in the Sutherland Youth Symposium. They are under the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. We now turn to the fifth