

question?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, this is not a...it would not be a public meeting. It would be a meeting among all senators who are interested in the bill. Certainly, you'd be invited with your amendments.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But it's not...we've been through more public hearings on this one than any other bill I have ever been associated with.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'd like to address that for a minute, if I may, Senator Beutler. You've had a tremendous number of hearings, that's documented. The amendment that we are dealing with today is a result of those hearings, and you were quoted as saying, at Kearney I believe, that you'd be very willing to have hearings after this amendment is adopted, so that everybody could have their input again because this amendment changes the whole face...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...of the green copy of the bill, and yet we didn't...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Pardon me, you have six minutes, I am sorry, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...we didn't have those hearings. Those hearings are not available. So you have people on your statement of intent or your statement from your committee that indicates that some people...that a great number of people supported it who actually do not. So it's misleading to the people here, it is not. Now your promise was made to a group of people where there were ground water irrigators present and then, as I understand it, the next meeting you had with the Governor's Water Council, those promises were ignored and the bill was drafted without any more input from the citizens of the state. Now that...that bodes ill for my constituents because they feel like government tramples on them enough, and they have bad feelings about this whole process down here because they didn't have input on the final product. They were not able to