

that people have a comfort level. And I think that's good for the state to do. I am smart enough to understand that it doesn't make any difference what Kansas does. We, in Nebraska, have to have a policy in the interrelationship between surface and ground water, and I don't need to be lectured to as a way that I feel like I'm in church again and someone is on the pulpit. I am smart enough to understand that that's not that effective, but with those basic comments, Senator Beutler, I do yield you the rest of my time so as you can have a chance to talk about the amendment in a rational tone as to why the amendment is not necessarily in the best interest of IOE.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Two and a half minutes, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, just let me say quickly, the part of the bill that...that deals with procedures that is sought to be amended is a part of the bill that Ron Bishop and the NRDs worked on a long time, very carefully. They have it the way they want it. What Senator Dierks is suggesting to you puts the heart...the horse before the cart in the sense that what we're trying to do is to establish a procedure by which studies can be done and we can determine, in a rational way, whether or not there is a conflict. The procedure that Senator Dierks is suggesting says that you kind of have to prove there is that conflict before you can go do the studies. It's...it's backwards. The NRDs support this particular language version. This is their procedural track. This is the way they think it can work best, and, by the way, if we're...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if we're "disempowering" the NRDs, they are sure for it because they voted 108 to 7 to support 108 with these amendments, and it is in part because they were comfortable with the procedures they set out, and I hope you will...will stick to those procedures. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I rise to oppose the amendment. The words in the amendment as the committee is proposing it are chosen very, very carefully in terms of the balance and the burden and to give local NRDs an opportunity to