

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: I think they have shown over the course of the last 25 years that they can accomplish things very well. There certainly have been problems in some districts, but for the most part, considering what they have as far as the challenge to work with in the resource management area, I think they've done an excellent job, and this is an extension of their responsibilities. It is, I don't care what anybody says, it is local control oriented, and that the process that's in this bill, for a large part, as has been said before, is there because we wanted to build in some protections for the local irrigator, for the local interest, for the local NRD board, so that they would have every opportunity to solve their own problems, as economically as possible, as directly as possible, as close to the people as possible.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: And I ask you to read the bill with that in mind. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, I would yield my time to Senator Wickersham.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. I had almost determined that it wouldn't be necessary for me to speak about this bill or the committee amendment this afternoon. As Senator Beutler indicated, I do have some concerns about the bill and I expect to offer amendments on Select File, but Senator Dierks made some comments that made me wonder literally where I have been for almost three years as I discussed this issue with constituents in my districts, with people who appeared at hearings, and meetings that were held across the state of Nebraska. To suggest that I and others who participated in those meetings did not attempt to find out what the people of the state of Nebraska thought about this issue is...well, I wasn't sure where I was. I don't know, Senator Dierks, if you'd have liked to have attended all those meetings. They were open