

legislation, and neither do most of the people that I represent. I haven't had any input from my district at all in support. I have talked to my NRDS, too, and they say that they can support some of it because of the amendments that came from the committee, but you didn't have a hearing for the public after your amendments were adopted. The public didn't get in on that, and the original statement from the committee...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...indicates all these people supported, but it has changed since then.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. On the Dierks amendment, Senator Elmer, followed by Senators Preister, Beutler, Hudkins, and Wickersham. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator David Bernard-Stevens. Senator Dierks, your allegations that our list of supporters that we show that are for the bill is absolutely accurate and was checked with before this flier was brought to the floor, double-checked to make sure that those supporters remained. Everyone got copies of the amendment as you see it, and checked it, and had the opportunity for input, every one, including every member of the Water Council, every NRD, which are your elected officials in your district that represent your farmers, and they voted to support this bill. Every one was checked with. You say controls are unnecessary. If we did not have implemented controls on quantities of water withdrawn from the Ogallala aquifer in Chase and Dundy Counties, there would be many farmers at this point at this time that would not have water to irrigate, where the water tables have been depleted the most. We need to do this. In most areas of the state, it'll never apply. In some areas, it will, and the resource that have the stewardship over, that we are responsible for, that we need to preserve for our children and grandchildren is something we can't put off any longer. This may not be the best bill in the world in my mind, or in yours, but it's certainly better than no bill at all. The NRDS are the people there representing the ground water irrigators. The ground water irrigators have elected them. The surface water appropriators represent the surface water users. Ninety-five percent of the area in this state of surface water irrigation is done by irrigation districts with diversion, and the appropriator is the irrigation