

natural resources and the efficient management of natural resources. Have done some excellent, excellent work. Unfortunately, this Legislature has not often enough adopted their suggestions. But, in any event, the suggestions of the NRDs generally was that we have the commission undertake a study and that they report back to the Legislature. The committee decided in the end to structure the report back in two steps and to ask for specific legislative recommendations if there were any that they thought to be appropriate. So we asked for the first report to come in by September 1 of 1997 and that that would include an analysis of their various revenue bases, their board of director sizes, boundary changes and consolidation of districts. And then a second report to be done by September 1, 1998, which would include an analysis of their...of the district cost effectiveness, program effectiveness, duplication of responsibilities and authorities, and other services or areas that could facilitate property tax relief. And we asked them, with respect to their recommendations, to outline five possible changes, the five that in their best judgment represents the opportunities most likely to stabilize and enhance the natural resource district system through restructuring and cost efficiencies. It's estimated that this kind of...these two studies will cost about 5,000 dollars. I've talked to the commission about it. I think they're interested and excited about doing it. Believe it has the support of the NRD system and would constitute, I think, a good faith effort to look at efficiencies in the area of natural resource districts. Hope you are amenable to this suggestion. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening. Senator Crosby on the Beutler amendment. Senator Crosby waives off. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, to save money it costs money. To even determine whether or not there can be a savings there has to be an expenditure of some money. The amount here is piddling, but I think it's indicative of what will have to happen on all of these proposals if we're very serious. It's going to take something other than just words, but I am interested to see whether or not we're going to put things in the statutes that can cause problems and create a lot of mischief. I just want to ask Senator Beutler a couple of questions on this amendment because, again, I don't have a great amount of interest in it one way or the other. And when I say