

other states or the federal government, essentially, oversimplifying a little bit. That situation could be dealt with by an NRD but, to the extent that it involved more than one NRD, it would involve trying to get all the NRDs to agree to a solution. In this third situation, what the amendment does is to take away entirely any authority that the Department of Water Resources has to get people together and to solve interstate problems or problems with the federal government. If you take the Republican Valley situation, for example, you have four NRDs down there and in order to deal with the Kansas situation, should we ever have to deal it, either before litigation or after litigation, it would require, if you accepted the Dierks amendment, that all four NRDs agree on some solution. And what I suggest to you as a simple, practical matter, it's not going to be able to work and everybody who worked on this in the Governor's Water Council, including all the farmers and there were a number of them, felt comfortable that this minimum degree of state input in these kinds of limited situations, was absolutely essential to having a working bill. And the NRDs themselves, the Association of Natural Resource Districts, they have approved, by a vote of 108 to 7, the provision that's currently in the bill that gives the Department of Water Resources at least some authority in this particular narrow area. Now, part of the reason that the NRDs were willing to do this is because they've had a good experience with...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...(inaudible). Right now, for example, this is modeled after the Special Protection Area Authority that is currently in our law; and, in that instance, the state department is the Department of Environmental Quality. But they have similar rights, as does DWR, to enter into a situation that's not being appropriately addressed or which is difficult to address by one NRD. And that interplay between state and local in the special protection area, ground water quality area, has worked out very well; and so the NRDs feel comfortable with this system. And we took a conservative approach and built this new law on that same sort of creative interplay between the state agency and the local NRDs. And that's...and that's...and that's how it all came about and everything in our current experience indicates that that's a dynamic and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.