

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Avery, you're recognized at this time, followed by Senator Schrock, Dierks, Beutler, and Hudkins.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President. I...in listening to all the comment, I guess I get a little bit of an education as well as it also brings up concerns. And I know several individuals that have talked, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Bromm, and Senator Elmer as well on issues that the deal with NRDs, and there are potential conflicts. I've got a great appreciation for the NRD system. But it doesn't always work. There is potential conflicts. I don't...I guess I have, as Senator Dierks has, some distrust maybe in state government. I don't like to see government, and I've done many things to try to reduce government. But there are times that you need an individual to step in when you don't have, at the local level, when you have situations, as has been brought up, Senator Beutler brought up, problems NRDs can't address with the other states. So you need the state in there. Looking through the sections that Senator Dierks' amendment deletes, I just want to reemphasize that if you have a...because our ground water is spread over the state and you don't have one NRD controlling that, the areas are many times a lot larger, when you need some type of management area set up where you're asking individuals to use best management practices, and many times they do that, you need, when there is a conflict between, say, an NRD, you have a situation where one NRD thinks there needs to be some kind of controls put on or there definitely is a need for controls, another NRD says, well, I don't think we want to deal with that. I feel that you need the Department of Water Resources in there to step in on the broader picture so you have some controls. That's why I have to oppose this amendment. And I understand the controls and more government control. But you got to realize that it won't be implemented in terms of it sets up procedures and a process. People's input will be put in. DWR is not going to act completely independent of the NRDs; but when there are conflicts between two NRDs, there's a potential and a need that we have some entity in there that can possibly solve that and bring in and look out the best interest of the state. It's very difficult for individual NRDs. It's human nature to try to protect your turf. And many times I don't think that that will happen if we eliminate this potential in here for having the state having some involvement in this. So on that, there's...I look back through and I think on page 64