

there's criteria established for the Department of Water Resources to act.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR AVERY: Public involvement is brought in. They must go through procedures, and we set those procedures up so it does protect the irrigators, it does protect the districts, it does protect individuals. And I think through all the amendments and the whole process they all have had input. And there's an extra amount of protection on that basis to make sure that there's hearings, there's time set, there is mechanism, all kinds of mechanisms that have been established to make sure that we have protection of all entities and not what has been stated before, that we have a water czar that is going to control everything and completely shut off this. It's a person that will only initiate a process and hopefully never will be used in many areas. But you need the state's involvement in this...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR AVERY: ...when there are conflicts through NRDs.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Schrock, followed by Senators Dierks, Beutler, Hudkins, Jones, and Fisher.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, at this time I cannot support the Dierks amendment. I commend him for bringing the amendment to us and for discussion purposes. But I do believe we need the Department of Water Resources involved, their expertise, they need to be working with the NRDs together. I don't think they're going to be working against each other. I believe there's plenty of safeguards in the bill that still keeps the NRDs firmly in control. And if I might, if Senator Bromm would engage in a little dialogue with me here, I'd like to ask him a few questions, beings he served on the committee.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Bromm, would you yield to a dialogue?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, I would, Senator Bernard-Stevens.