

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: I was visiting when you did your opening. Did you say that your four amendments have been combined into one?

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes, that's right.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Would you run them by me again.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Okay, sure. We have several instances, in talking about publication of hearing notices, there were some that said they had to be published seven days, no sooner than seven days before the meeting, others said no more than ten days. And so we have just combined all of those so they are the same, because if someone misses the proper publication date because they misread it or they understood that everything else was seven days, and they messed up and did it in ten, or vice versa, we just wanted to make it clear. Let's get it all the same. Let's be consistent. The second part of it, the striking the "shall" and going back to "may," that is because in certain hearings the information may be presented by those interested and in another section of the bill it said the information may be presented so you have a "shall" and you have a "may" so we just put them both the same. The next part had to do with taxing authority. If an NRD has taxing authority over two kinds of areas, fine. But if they only have taxing authority over one and we give them this increase, then they in effect have been given the authority again to raise taxes and we didn't want to do that. The final part of it takes out the criminal penalties if in fact someone misses a deadline.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, that's fine. I think that's a good amendment and I would support that. Evidently it's got the support of the committee, and that's I guess a pretty important thing here today. But I have to also respond to a remark that Senator Wehrbein made earlier in the debate, and he suggested that ground water irrigators have no first in time, first in right and that's true. I think he suggested that they might have and that's not true. They do not have that first in time, first in right authority that happens to surface water irrigators. And I should tell you, too, Senator Wehrbein, that