

think they're important and important in terms of the Platte River and its habitat, but also finding some balance between the multiple interests who have concern over the Platte River from agriculture to municipalities to the interest groups who are concerned about the Whooping Crane Trust and wetlands, meadows along the Platte. Somewhere in all of this discussion there has to be a middle ground and a balance between those interests. It's my hope that in these next few months, when the process continues, that both Game and Parks and the coalition members will...will remember what we're discussing tonight or at least pay attention to the concerns that the Legislature is expressing. I do not support the Klein amendment in the original form. And, Senator Klein, my good friend, I'm sorry to tell you that. But I do think it's a concern. The groups who have been negotiating have agreed to spend time during the interim...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...defining, better defining the language in the statute. It's one of the reasons I am reluctant to offer the amendment because I think they will make a good faith effort to improve the statutory language, but also to look for those exemptions that are necessary outside of that appropriation that is granted for Game and Parks to assure that flood control projects will be made available, appropriated amounts of water, and to find a way that we can avoid this kind of conflict in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I, too, rise in opposition to the Klein amendment, mostly to respond to...to Senator Klein's comment about the NRDs being a wonderful representative agency of the public. I do think they do a lot of good, but, Senator Klein, those of us who've been in the Legislature for a long time have fought the battle and the question of representation in NRDs many a time. It hasn't been an issue this session, hasn't been an issue for a couple of sessions, but any time you raise a specter of NRDs being representative, those of us who have suggested that one person, one vote be applied in the election of NRD board members would have to take some objection to that. The NRDs are the one subdivision of government with broad taxing authority and broad