

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, first of all, I don't make a judgment with regard to the validity of the objections of those who appeared at the Game and Parks meeting. The senator asked me what...what I thought happened and why it happened, and regardless of how you may feel about the legitimacy of the objections, if there were X number of people feeling strongly someplace, you and I both know that that's something you have to pay political attention to. So I don't know, I haven't studied in detail the settlement or the details of stream flows that are being argued by these two sides. I don't have a judgment at this moment about that. But I suppose as far as the process is concerned, Game and Parks sent out a negotiating team. Their negotiating team recommended a settlement to the board. The board itself never approved any settlement. That was the point of the meeting, for the negotiating team to present to the board their settlement. Obviously, it's every board's prerogative and right to reject the recommendations of their negotiating team. If they do reject it, then we're back before the process that has been put in place by this Legislature to resolve in-stream flow conflicts, and that is before the administrative hearing officer, which is Mike Jess in this case and DWR. And they will argue their application. And if the objections continue, the objectors will argue their objections, and Mike Jess will have to make some kind of decision.

SENATOR SCHROCK: It's an interesting process. I really don't think Nebraskans should be fighting Nebraskans on this issue, but it appears like that's what's taking place.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Seeing no further lights, Senator Klein, to close.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question for Senator Beutler, too.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR KLEIN: I started to ask you a little bit ago, Senator Beutler, if...would you work with me next year to create a bill to cause and force different governmental agencies to have to go to a binding arbitration type thing instead of going through litigation over things like this, if I withdraw this amendment?