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It creates an opportunity to use the existing authorities in a way that I would argue is more efficient than the current structures that we allow them.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Chair recognizes Senator Beutler for discussion on the committee amendments to LB 87.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wickersham, if I may, let me engage you in conversation. And I do things this way, as you understand, because I'm uncertain as, do I have enough background to state accurately things? And so I want to be sure you have a chance to correct it, if my examples,...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Sure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or my statements are not strictly in accordance with your bill. But let's start out with the basic definition of the types of entities that can combine here. And I take it...and I take it that...that it's accurate, to begin with, to say that they either can combine in terms of combining certain other functions, or that they can combine in whole. Is that not accurate?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: They could...it isn't.... Senator, I think the word "combine" is not precise. What they do is that they give authority to this entity...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...to carry out part of their functions. And again it's maybe the distinction between combine and merger. And I don't want to sound too much like a lawyer, but if you...when you combine or you merge, somebody disappears.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, let me...let me put it this way to you, Senator. Isn't it accurate to say that, if a county so chose, they could delegate their entire responsibilities to a joint agency, and the county next door could do the same thing, if they so chose.