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the amendment and hopefully have a further opportunity to explore it with everybody. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler, I now have AM2299, Senator. (Legislative Journal page 588.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, to open on AM2299.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator (sic) Maurstad, members of the Legislature, another thought that I wanted to share with you and ask you to take a look at. The Natural Resources Commission, which will continue to exist, is a commission that, as Senator Schrock indicated, has 16 members. Of those 16 members, 13 of them are elected by a caucus system and 3 are appointed by the Governor. What this amendment would do would simply to have...would simply be to have all of the members appointed by the Governor, with the appointments, as usual, confirmed by the Legislature. That's the sum and substance of the amendment. The rationale is simply this, that to the extent that you have people in these level positions making decisions with regard to particular funds and funding perhaps it makes some sense, as we do in all other areas that I can think of, to either have elected officials making these decisions or to have people appointed by the Governor making these decisions. And by that means, I think there is more accountability and more actual democratic control, democratic relationship to...between the people that...the people the state elected and the execution of the laws. If you want to look on page 19 of the bill, there is a description there of the manner in which the Natural Resources Commission members are chosen. And at the top of page 20 is a further description of the caucus system that is used. And I think, if you look at that, you will see that it is a methodology that has a particular slant and structure. First of all, with regard to the caucuses, there seems to be no particular structure that is necessarily defined in the caucus system. As I understand it, for example, it doesn't necessarily mean when they say there shall be a caucus of natural resource district directors residing in the river basin that all of the directors of one NRD would be participating in the same caucus. In other words, if they reside in what is a different river