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SENATOR BEUTLER: If you amend this section, they can still do that, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, they can.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, but they can still do it, but they can't recover attorney's fees or costs, isn't that what you're saying?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes. The only way they can recover attorney fees and costs is if the Attorney General brings the action for cease and desist orders. They can bring other types of actions, but for cease and desist orders the Attorney General's Office can recover the cost.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, this amendment doesn't make any sense to me at all because if you believe that there should be action with regard to cease and desist orders, as you describe it in this bill, then it makes no sense at all to take the incentive away from county attorneys and private attorneys and reimburse the Attorney General for the time he may be spending on it. Can't we just go back to the committee amendment and let everybody who brings an action recover their costs?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay. There are many reasons. But the NRDs brought this issue to us, and they don't want the county attorneys to have that ability to bring cease and desist actions. So they felt that this was the more appropriate route to take.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, where did this amendment come from? I mean, it came out of committee allowing the county attorneys to deal with this. They've traditionally always dealt with these kinds of problems. It's not like you're taking an option away from the natural resource districts, in a sense, by not allowing them to do it, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, we are taking that option away from the NRDs.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And you're taking the option away from NRDs to hire private attorneys to get it done, right?