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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003      LB 619, 637, 692

interested in. I'm sorry. Section 5 contains the original provisions of LB 619, as amended unanimous by the committee. I'm sorry. And LB 692 contains the original provisions that Senator Preister was interested in. It eliminates the sunset date for the Biopower Steering Committee to LB 208 (sic). The committee was to sunset on December 31, 2003, and it extends that date to LB...to the year 2008. With that, I would try to answer any questions you may have on LB 619, or this proposed amendment. And I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schrock. (Visitors introduced.) Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, first amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Schrock, AM0701. (Legislative Journal page 767.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on AM0701.

SENATOR SCHROCK: This amendment is LB 637, which was heard in the committee with no opponents, and the committee voted unanimously to place it as an amendment to LB 619. With this amendment, the Soil and Water Conservation Fund could be used to make payments to private landowners who, because of an interstate agreement, compact, or decree, must reduce their water usage. These payments could be used for research, cost-sharing, and other programs to develop voluntary incentive-based practices or measures to reduce the consumptive use of water. The Soil and Water Conservation Fund is used for a lot of purposes, but it cannot be used for the purpose of reducing water usage. And we think that would be a very appropriate use of this. That's why this bill was noncontroversial. It is supported by the NRD association. And we think it is something that would be an appropriate use of the Soil and Water Conservation Fund money. This does not add money to the Soil and Water Conservation Fund. It merely allows the Natural Resources Commission to authorize payments for this type of activity, should they choose to do so. You may recall, last year we passed a bill that authorized the Soil and Water Conservation Funds to be used on construction sites in urban