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LB 32

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...statutes for dealing with one person, one vote.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I've been taking a serious look at this bill and by increasing the per diem amount of these individuals board of directors that serve on these NRDs. It...in doing some of the math on that, realistically now they can earn up to \$2,800 a year. So that would be, you know, 40 meetings a year that they could have. That would be a meeting every nine days. I don't think these board of directors, the individuals meet every nine days. If you want to increase it now to the \$3,600, that comes down to 50 meetings a year, which would be, they'd be meeting every week that a board member would be meeting on the NRD boards. I don't think those board...NRD boards meet that often. I don't know why we would be trying to raise that there, when...I just feel that this is unrealistic. But when you raise it up to that, you know, somebody will say, well, let's have a meeting. And they meet for an hour in the morning, and then go on, and respectfully put in the...submit the bill for \$70 for that meeting. I don't agree with that. I absolutely don't agree with that part of it. So I think the way we've got it right now, in my opinion, is sufficient. You know, maybe there are some NRDs that, you know, meet a lot more. But you know, meeting once every nine days throughout the year is sufficient, I think, because I...it's not a full-time job. So those are the comments that I have. And I'm really concerned about, you know, raising it to the \$3,600. It comes off of my NRD taxes that are assessed to my property. And I just don't realistically think that there is a need to go to the \$3,600, or allowing them to meet once a week for NRD purposes, and meeting for the whole day. So with that, those are my comments, and I'll return the balance of my time to the Chair.