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FLOOR DEBATE

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didn't have a chance to get to you and I'm sorry about that, but here's what it...here's what the compromise would be. As you know, under Senator Flood's amendment, as it now is, natural resource districts are not allowed to be a qualified public agency; that is, they're not allowed to participate in this, in this program. In the Lancaster County area, we have an excellent, excellent NRD with an excellent, excellent management, and the city and the NRD and the county work back and forth all the time. So I feel, personally, very strongly that I would like to have the NRDs in. I know that there is a feeling in the Omaha area that that NRD doesn't need this additional resource that's provided by this bill; that it has the funding of Omaha and the backing of a large urban population in Omaha, so they may not need this bill. So what was agreeable was if we included all NRDs, except those containing a city of the metropolitan class, and with that compromise we can move forward to Select File and proceed from that point. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on AM0744. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator Beutler,...thank you, Mr. President...I do have questions about this amendment and, first of all, let me tell you where I'm coming from, and that is the committee...it didn't look as if the committee was going to advance this bill unless we did remove the NRDs from it. That was, I think, a consensus. So that was agreeable to me. I would not have necessarily made that move or that amendment on my own, but that was, I believe, the committee consensus. So I'm reluctant to be party to an agreement to put them back in, but I have no problem if that's what the body wants. So that's where I'm coming from philosophically. I didn't hear all of your explanation, but what I would like you to tell me again is why we should exempt the metropolitan class districts. And then, secondly, is that...I know we do that a lot in here with different class cities and villages, but is that a good public policy? I...maybe if you tell me why you want to exempt them then I'll understand.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. First of all, Senator, I think it's