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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2005      LB 217

SENATOR REDFIELD:      Thank you, Mr. President.      members of the body, I have generally looked at issues that have been before us on the floor and I think that it's well known that I try to look for equality and fairness in our policy, and I would have to echo the words of Senator Jensen and others who have expressed a concern that we are saying only one cannot participate.      I am far more comfortable with the committee amendment, which said we're going to treat all NRDs alike. I do not believe that I can support the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Redfield.      Senator Langemeier.

SENATOR LANGEMEIER:      Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body.      And I, too, support LB 217 and AM0614, although I do not support AM0714 (sic) for a couple of reasons.      Number one, cherry-picking one NRD out I don't think is good public policy. But the second thing is, is coming off an NRD board, which you've heard me say many times, the NRD system has mastered the use of cash funds and leveraging cash funds to Environmental Trust Funds, to federal funds to build projects. I've never seen anybody do interlocal agreements as well as NRDs do, and it's just phenomenal how many they have gotten involved in. And so I don't support AM0744. I think NRDs need to be excluded from the bonding business. They can do revenue bonds for water projects, community water/rural water systems. They have that authority already. Right now, again, they have mastered the use of leveraging cash funds and I think we need to leave them in that manner. With that, I'd yield the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Langemeier.      Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN:      Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to...I do support LB 217 and I...and the Flood amendment. One of the questions I wanted to ask Senator Flood, just...

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Senator Flood, are you available for a question?