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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Flood. Senator Flood, are you...?

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. You know, I appreciate the debate about NRDs, and I guess, for the record, my bill, when I introduced it, included NRDs. I value their significance to the state. I value what they do. There can be arguments made on both sides of what type of bonded indebtedness they can enter into, or what type of projects they can do. You know, I'm interested in Senator Beutler's amendment because it seems to address the very reason the committee, from what I understood, for the most part, excluded NRDs for, and that was for a certain NRD that exists in the eastern portion of our state. After talking with Senator Brown and other members, Senator Langemeier, of the Government Committee, I understand now that maybe NRDs, you know, are quite a different political subdivision. Maybe they don't belong in here. So I'm just interested to find out what the body wants to do with that. I think it's important to note there's been much said about what can be done without an election. I want to give you some examples of debt that cities can issue, cities mind you, can issue without an election: revenue bonds for utility projects, cities can, without an election; special assessment bonds for projects as part of a special assessment district; flood control bonds for drainage projects, and you can find that in Section 10-142; public safety anticipation bonds for purpose of public safety equipment, payable from a special public safety tax limited to 5 cents; off-street parking bonds for off-street parking projects in an off-street parking district; highway allocation pledge bonds for street projects, payable from city highway allocation funds. So there are instances where cities can issue debt without an election and I, at times, am frustrated that the Legislature ties the hands of the elected officials across our state who are trying to make decisions for the betterment of their own community and who still answer to the citizens of that community. If every time we wanted to spend money on behalf of the state we had to ask for the citizens' approval on our budget, it would be so burdensome I don't know how we'd ever get business done. We do that to