

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2005

LB 351

SENATOR PREISTER: I would be happy to, Senator. One of the frequently heard questions that we get when we are in the Natural Resources Committee hearing hearings is that we need to base our decisions on sound science. A biologist brings sound science information to the discussion. We have an Environmental Quality Council that's largely made up of industry representatives, regulatees. And some of those individuals have a science background. A biologist brings more neutrality, brings information from a biologic perspective, and can, when you're talking about setting water standards or other kinds of standards or recommending those standards, bring that sound science background to helping in that process.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Preister. And by having that sound science, I can live with that. The thing that concerns me is, you know, is he going to be advised by environmental groups? Is his decisions going to be made, you know, just because of special interest groups? That is a real concern of mine. But I am concerned with the number of people that are on this, and what happens. When we continually add that many people to...I mean, add just a couple people to a board, realistically, only one, but changing the description of the one, really concerns me. I have got some real problems with what we did pass last year on the DEQ, the environmental quality laws that we enacted. I'm a producer out there, and we're having a lot of calls. It's interpretation of the rules that were made last year. One interprets them one way; one interprets them another way. Got several calls this noon because we were discussing this bill. Seems like everything is a moving target. People don't know where they're at. So I have some real concerns with this. And if we could get to where we have decisions made on sound science, I can live with that. But I think I'm going to have a little bit of a concern, because of the environmental groups, special interest groups are going to have a...you know, a real influence on this sound science decisions, and the information that they can give to them. So with that, I'm concerned about this. And I'll listen to the testimony. And I'll return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Further