April 4, 2005   LB 351

LB 351.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the closing on the committee amendments offered by the Natural Resources Committee. The question before the body is, shall AM0794 be adopted, as amended, to LB 351? All in favor vote aye; those opposed, nay. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments, as amended. Have you all voted on the adoption of committee amendments that care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Committee amendments have been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Back to discussion of the advancement of LB 351 to E & R Initial. Senator Preister, I see no lights on. Senator Preister, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President, friends all. I appreciate the discussion, even though much of it centered around other issues other than the changes in the bill that are proposed. I still view this as the Legislature and the Governor having virtual control, by virtue of the fact that the Governor has to make the recommendation, the Natural Resources Committee still has to approve any appointments to the Environmental Quality Council, and then this body has to vote the further approval. So for those people who may be concerned that this is somehow taking that authority and control away, it's still all vested where it was. The Legislature still has the opportunity to discuss and to vote up or down on these appointments. To just highlight, we are adding a biologist, again, someone with sound science background, which we frequently hear; and we're adding...we're changing...we're only adding one person to the makeup, and what we are doing is changing public at large to a minority representative. So we're not increasing at that level. There's only one new person added. And at this point, minority is taking the place of someone else. And from my view, a