

SENATOR McKENZIE: My questions are really more about how the process would take place if, in fact, these proposed amendments were considered. It's my understanding from our discussions in the past that in order for any change to be made in the compact that all three states have to agree and pass legislation and then that legislation also has to be ratified at the federal level, is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's correct.

SENATOR McKENZIE: So do you have any idea whether or not any of the other states are seriously considering amendments or might be favorable toward these amendments?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, at this point in time I don't think anybody has any specific amendments in mind, I'm sure they don't, but they're trying...what we're trying to do is to encourage them all to get together and see if they can work through it at the compact level.

SENATOR McKENZIE: Okay, I thank you for that. My concern was just whether or not the body understood that this process, that the resolution would just be the beginning of a process that may take many years and the collaborative efforts of all three states as well as the federal government in changing any of the compact. I will support the resolution at this time and I thank Senator Elmer for bringing it to us.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I'd like to engage Senator Beutler in some more discussion, please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Beutler, in reading after the whereases in the resolution that the Nebraska commissioner, Michael Jess, is in consultation with the Natural Resources Districts whose boundaries lie within the Republic River basin shall make appropriate resolutions. I guess I am concerned that there will be other people involved with the decision-making process, that he'll have support from those natural resource districts, and I wonder if you could discuss that a little bit and relate to me