

some of them are well run, but the political system is not that of local control like you have in counties, towns, townships, where you have highly contested elections. This started when we set up these beautiful watersheds all based out theoretically out on this side but we didn't get political accountability into it. I wish the urban senators would listen to some of the rurals on this one because we have the heat on us to vote for the control with more people understanding that the bills here in support of it than in opposition. Most of the people that are not going to like what happened, have not read the bill. Those...the NRDs are supporting it, but can't we moderate it so that we don't extend the potential for the Natural Resource District Managers to just overdo themselves in this management. It is not accountable. I do not trust them all that much. I can give you one example. Right now the NRD that I live in is suing the small town and I am paying taxes on both sides of the suit and the most ridiculous suit that is going to the Supreme Court. I really think that you can think about these things. We have discussed this thing. I wanted them to back off, but there is no listening. They have got the power to go in and push a law suit that is ridiculous with the taxpayers paying both sides of the law suit. It has left a lot of reservations in this area. I just would like to see this bill move in more moderation. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, do you want to speak to the Lamb amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise in opposition to the Lamb amendment. As a member of the Public Works Committee we did study this issue very carefully. I think that it is rather odd that Senator Lamb from an area of the state that has got a lot of water, Senator Kahle also from an area of the state that has a lot of water, Senator Schmit and Burrows both from the eastern part of the state with considerable amounts of water, are in opposition...or to the section of the bill that Senator Lamb is attempting to take out. From my part of the state we don't have that much water...not because it is not there, Senator Schmit, not because the quifer is not capable of producing the large amount of water, and I would point out to the body that we do have a control area in the state right now where the aquifer in some places is 200 to 300 foot thick. The water is there but it is being depleted at an alarming rate. I think one of the points that needs to be made is that under existing law the statutes say that an irrigation well cannot be within 600 foot of another irrigation well of different owners, but the director does have the authority to issue permits on individual basis if the need can be shown for having it closer than that 600 foot. What we are attempting to do with this section in 643 is give the local people,