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LB 790

was there. We're just putting it in statute that there is a burning ban and leave it to local option which is the local fire chief or his or her designee which means that generally these fire chiefs will notify the person that takes the calls as to who is burning and I don't think that it will run into that much of a magnitude of a problem. You've got to remember that these volunteer firemen are doing all this on their own time and the cost of the equipment and the time that it takes to make these runs, the gas and everything, gets quite expensive to go out there and make a run when they don't know who is burning. So I think that this would be...if these people, senators, don't have the faith in their volunteer firemen that they can handle that job of putting it back to local control, then I think there is something wrong with their particular fire department. I think I've got the faith in all of these volunteer organizations to be able to handle this on a local option basis. I am in support of this bill and hope we advance it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, I think what we're talking about is that this statute will just simply trigger local control. The responsibility of the local fire department who knows the conditions, who knows the people, who knows the area and who knows the people that live in that area. They have to deal with the fire...

PRESIDENT: We have about a minute, Senator.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...okay, and certainly I don't think if you have a number where you can call when you have a fire, I don't know why you can't call that number to inform them that you are going to be burning and it seems to me that that would certainly be an easy thing to do. I guess I am in support of this bill. Please advance it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle, do you have anything...?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, just one comment. I think what we are doing with this bill makes it easier for you to have the control out there to burn when you want to. If the fire marshal puts on the state ban you can't burn. You have to get the permit and this way all you have to do is pick up the phone and say, I'm going to burn something. Now as Senator Schmit said I just doubt that there is going to be any trouble if you see a little smoke out in a hundred acres of plowed ground but it makes it easier then to burn out there at the local area than it does under the complete control of the fire marshal. I think you're on the wrong side of it. If you want to make it easier and then defeat this

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