

Environmental Control and one other entity are important in the implementation of this bill. In Senator Eret's bill, LB 227, there is no mention of the use of the NRDs. There is no mention of them inspecting or doing anything to that effect. So I guess what I am saying is that I think the Ag does have a significant impact upon what is going to happen in these legislative bills. I would point out that I think that Senator Schmit will give this bill as much an equal treatment as the Agriculture and Environment Committee would give it and I thoroughly expect, whether this bill is rereferenced today or the body chooses to keep this bill in the Ag and Environment Committee, that we will probably see a chemigation issue on the floor of the Legislature sometime during this legislative session. I thoroughly expect that and I think the committee members would agree with me. This is a very important issue and one that should be examined by the full body of the Legislature. So with that, I would like to urge this body to continue to have these bills, the chemigation bills and the nitrogen-nitrate bill, remain in the Ag and Environment Committee where I believe it is important and pertinent to the issues. If it is not, then I suggest that you take the environmental portion out of agriculture and put it in the Public Works Committee because it seems to me that if we are not going to use that portion of the committee or if we are not allowed to use that portion, then we might as well give it to a committee who can use it. With that I would urge the body to keep these bills in the Ag and Environment Committee.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak against the rereferencing motion and in support of Senator Johnson's position. The Executive Committee, as you are aware, as the Referencing Committee voted 6-3 to send these to the Ag Committee and personally I have never felt more comfortable with a referencing decision than I have felt with that one. With all due respect to Senator Schmit, I suggest to you that the history that he has given you is lopsided to say the least. It is true that in the long past of this Legislature that water bills originally were generally referred to the Public Works Committee, but it was because that committee had to do with public works and most of the bills having to do with water had to do with the construction of public works or conservation projects of one type or another, conservation