

located a city of the primary class or a city of the metropolitan class. Now that doesn't ensure that the board member is directly representative of a city, but at least he comes from an NRD which has substantial urban interest and I think that is only fair to do that in light of the fact that this particular entity is being empowered to do some very significant things and given what I consider to be the unfair structuring of the NRD organizational law in the first instance, it is only right that there should be some compensation in the way that this corporation is structured. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I'd rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment, again raising the issue of the makeup of NRD boards. There is legislation introduced by Senator Hoagland and myself to change that makeup and I guess I'd hate to take advantage of this bill to do it, but I'd like to raise that issue once again. We are authorizing a great deal of authority under LB 387 to these NRD boards and this taxing and bonding authority obviously is very important. The concern that has come from the urban areas over the last couple of years in particular has been that the makeup of NRD boards has been very, very heavily weighted toward rural areas versus urban and if you're from an urban area, that's bad, if you're from a rural area, that's great. I happen to be from an urban area so I don't think that's so great. Now one of the concerns I think as expressed by Senator Beutler in this amendment is we feel underrepresented on the boards. We do not have one man, one vote. We have districts that are created that are primarily to make sure the rural areas have more than adequate representation on these NRD boards and the authority to tax and issue bonds is one that is paid for, not just by the rural, but by all these taxpayers in these districts and so when everybody shares equally in the cost, but not everybody shares equally in the voice on the decisions, that is taxation without representation and that is kind of where we are at right now with our NRD boards. Now those from rural areas obviously like that and that is understandable, but, again I emphasize, those of us from the urban areas recognize this. We've raised the issue. We will continue to raise the issue and feel that it is important that we not forget the impact. What Senator Beutler is proposing here is a very small token effort to try and recognize this