

now a third time, their existence and every time they say, well we'll eventually eliminate them but it never happens. And as Senator Beutler says, it is important that we do finally consolidate all these different people together under one structure and that is what the NRDs are all about. I would support his amendment wholeheartedly. I won't say any more than that other than to confirm what Senator Beutler said. His perceptions reflect what I think is the case, and it is time we finally do eliminate these districts and move forward with a fully consolidated natural resource policy in this state.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, needless to say I do not accept this amendment as a friendly amendment to the bill. I oppose it, quite adamantly as a matter of fact because I do think that the conservation districts are doing a good job out in, not only my area, but in the other areas that they still are in existence. Senator Beutler has a bill dealing with nitrate/nitrogen levels. In the Blue River Conservation District they have done a five-year study on that. That's where they have been expending their efforts. They've also done educational programming on conservation of our water resources. They continue to help monitor water runoff on irrigation scheduling, as well as irrigation scheduling. So they are doing some things out there that are helping farmers, that are helping conserve our natural resources. I don't think that's a waste of money, Senator Beutler. I think that these people if they're out there and they're doing the job and in our area, and it's just not my district, it's Senator Sieck's district and it is several other senators districts as well in which the Upper Big Blue NRD covers. The Blue River Conservation District is doing a very good job because...in fact that NRD works hand-in-hand with the efforts that they are making out there and I think that this bill simply allows them to continue in their existence. I don't see anything wrong with that. I guess I was not here when Senator Kremer was here, needless to say, and I don't know what promises were made about what was going to happen with these districts after a certain date, but if you've got something working I guess I question why you'd want to destroy or undo that mechanism that you now have in place that farmers and the NRDs are in agreement with, why you'd want to do that, I guess I'm a bit confused. On the other hand I do see what Senator Beutler is saying,