

March 14, 1985

LB 124

PRESIDENT: Three minutes left and, Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak on this matter?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question is called. Do I see five hands? I do. There are other speakers still listening. We do not really need to call the question. Senator Beutler is the only one on the wire and he may close. A minute and a half is left. Two and a half minutes is left. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I was one of the co-signers of this amendment so I will help a little bit in the closing and I want to indicate that I'm not trying to stop this bill or kill this bill because I think Senator Johnson and his people out there are doing a good job, only I want to bring to the attention of the body that we have got a situation in this state that is not equal and not the same across this state. We say to the vast majority of the area of this state that an NRD system is the system you've got for the protection of the environment and of the conservation of the natural resources in your area and then we turn right around and say, well, yeah, but in one particular area we've created another little entity and we're going to give them some taxing authorities and some duties to do. And as Senator Lamb pointed out, they do do some good things. They happen to have some pretty good people on there. Well the fact of the matter is you're going to have good people on the NRD boards and if you've got those doing the right things and give them the power they can do some of those things as well. All we're suggesting is that we should have everybody treated the same, have an NRD system be the one who is the one responsible for conservation and the protection of the natural resources and if they feel they need a little extra help in Senator Johnson's area, then give them that little taxing authority extra than the other NRDs, shift it from that...

PRESIDENT: One minute left.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...conservation district and with that I would ask for the adoption of the amendment and see if Senator Beutler has any further comment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, there is less than a minute