

disagree with Senator Landis. We passed this bill last year. We haven't saw any evidence of good conservation activities, we just haven't. As far as the bill that selects the executive director, that bill was heard in committee. There was a bill and I signed on it, so I know it was there, and we did advance it. So it was there. Now, I'd like to make five points on the Governor's veto. One, the statement here is that you shouldn't trust democracy more than...bureaucracy more than democracy, and I agree. But democracy has worked in this case. Thirteen of the 16 state resource commissions are elected members. They were elected by their local NRDs or water basins. We must remember the commission is the state water planner and the NRDs are the ones who put the plan into action. I also want to tell you that the Governor appoints three members on that commission. He also appoints three members on the Water Management Board. So he has a say in these different agencies, and I think that is proper. Second, this point states the Governor should be held accountable for state water policy. I feel the Governor should not dictate powers. He is to serve as a leader for these people elected to offices. And with the election of Governor continuity of commission director is hard to maintain in the commission which Senator Warner really expressed himself on. Number three, he claims this bill would destroy the balance of the Water Management Board. In reality, this bill would give the Water Management Board more direction. The director of the commission would be the chairman of this Water Management Board. He could provide more leadership because he could not be operating under the fear of Governor appointment. That is the problem that we have, as Senator Warner expressed himself. Four, the claim here is the bill eliminates the safeguards to prevent pork barreling. I disagree. As it is now, a unanimous vote is required of the Natural Resource Commission. This is not practical. A simple majority vote is adequate. Point five, the point is made that reorganization and consolidation of state agencies would be difficult. I find quite the opposite true. The elected NRD members have supported consolidation of local entities recently, so why wouldn't they support it in the future. And I can assure you I was quite involved when the reorganization of the soil conservation districts took place. And I will continue looking in this direction because I think there is some need of reorganization. We can expect full cooperation from the Resource Commission in reorganizing the state agencies. I think we must trust the wisdom of this Legislature to consolidate these state agencies. With this, I urge you to override this veto.