

population wise, be represented. I would urge the adoption of the amendment. I would also urge that we do have some debate, not only on this amendment, but on the Conway amendment and then onto the bill itself because we are dealing with an area that's not simply a "Save the Niobrara" or allow the local protection of the Niobrara type of issue anymore. We are talking about a statewide issue and I would hope we would get a chance to make sure we know exactly what we are passing and to try to clean it up a little bit. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Lamb, on the Lindsay amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose this amendment by Senator Lindsay. I think it's well documented that the Natural Resources Commission is representative of the whole state. Those people, there are 16 people on that commission, I believe, and three of them are appointed by the Governor, the rest of them come from the NRDs across the state. It's the logical group to control this. It's a group that knows the situation as far as what needs to be protected, what water uses should be and should not be permitted and it is just...I think we voted this down once before when we had this debate to shift it from Natural Resources Commission to the Game Commission. I don't think it's appropriate at all to have the Game Commission doing what properly should come before the Natural Resources Commission.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Beutler, on the Lindsay amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think this amendment to the Conway amendment is really the watershed amendment. If you're willing to adopt this amendment and the Conway amendment, then it's possible to build something decent out of this bill. And if you're not, then to me it's a signal that this is purely a matter of those who don't want scenic rivers versus those who would like to see some kind of scenic river, real scenic river bill. The Natural Resources Commission, let me tell you first of all, and this is very important when you're talking about scenic rivers, the Natural Resources Commission has no power to request an instream flow right. The Natural Resources Commission has no power to request