

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, first of all, I'd ask for a ruling on germaneness. I do not believe this amendment is germane to the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I would ask you for a response.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. LB 789 deals with surface and ground water. It deals with how and who can use it and move it. It deals with what permits are or are not needed. It deals with how much water can be used. The amendment that I offer deals with defining a water user and how much they can use without a permit from the Director of Water Resources. It's clearly germane.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Beutler, I'm going to rule that the amendment is germane.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So a ruling on...I'd ask for a...I'd ask that the Chair be overruled.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The motion before us now is, shall the Chair be overruled, and each senator is allowed one time to speak. Senator Coordsen, did you...

SENATOR COORDSEN: On the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay. Senator Beutler, would you like to open on it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, this is a more serious matter than just amending a bill that has come off consent calendar into another bill. This is a matter of some basic water transfer policy. What Senator Bernard-Stevens is doing today is defying the committee solution to this and ignoring the committee amendments and trying to end run the committee with his solution to a particular problem which he is welcome to do, of course, but I don't think that this particular mechanism that is being used today is a good or a thoughtful practice or a way that that kind of a matter should be handled. First of all, I respectfully submit that it is not germane. This is a little Department of Water Resources fix-up bill. It has reference to specific statutes. What Senator Bernard-Stevens is dealing with are a completely different set of statutes, the Industrial Ground Water Users Act, completely different. This bill doesn't