

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: So it is....I agreed to this substitution in order to discuss this amendment ahead of the rest of the amendments. What this amendment does, and as I said I will share the opening with Senator McKenzie, is to provide a dual system in applying the one-to-one ratio in establishing subdistricts for the elections of boards of directors in a natural resource district, whichever one it may be in the state. And what it provides is that if 50 percent or more of the assessed valuation of the real property of a district is within the corporate limits of a city or...city or village, then the one-to-one would apply in the div...in the population ratio of a subdistrict. And if more of the valuation is outside of the corporate limits of a city, then the district could continue to be as many as the majority are now, which are districts where there is a...substantially equal, which is defined as being three-to-one or less. So, with that, Senator McKenzie, I would give to you the balance of the time that I have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Can you tell me how much time I have then.

PRESIDENT MOUL: There's approximately seven minutes.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Okay. Madam President, members of the body, the purpose of this amendment is to raise the policy change and to consider some important assumptions that I believe LB 389 is based on, the first of which has a lot to do with whether or not we, in fact, have moved from the NRD system as a special interest district to a general purpose district. The NRDs were created at a time and in a way that considered a special set of criteria and, in fact, if you will look, one of the handouts that you have just recently received on your desk identify the original 13 criteria that were used to establish authority for the NRDs. You will notice on the second page any changes that have been made since that original legislation was passed. You will notice, in fact, that there is one less, not more. And while I cannot argue with the fact that much of the NRD system has received more specific regulation in terms of groundwater quality and quantity, essentially the criteria have not changed, they've remained the same and therefore the authority remains the same. The NRDs also, especially those in my district, are