

about the fact that he believes that NRD is no longer a special purpose district. In the field of education, where I've spent most of my time, that kind of a statement, without solid evidence, is called a rumor of evidence. And I would ask if, indeed, he has any solid evidence that would support that that might allow us to make a better decision about it. Senator Beutler, could you answer that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator McKenzie, name me one district that levies a special assessment.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: I cannot.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They do not, and therefore they're not special assessment districts, they're general property levying districts, just as counties are, and just as school districts are, in my opinion.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you. The NRD was not developed to be the same as a county, it is not the same as a county, it is not the same as a school district. These districts were developed to manage and use the natural resources of the state in a way that made sense and respected the people that it most affected, the landowners and those people who lived downstream, who lived next to those highly erodable hills. For that reason, the NRD was constructed to be different than a county, and for that reason and because of the goodwill of the landowner, and because of that consideration it has been doing its job. The one court case, as I referenced earlier, that attempted to challenge that did not succeed. The NRD is a special purpose district. And while regulations and changes have been made in the past years to reinforce that, to change that, to better define what an NRD does, essentially in its broadest sense it remains as it was before. I would also like to just again reinforce the fact that this is a little like taking six friends to dinner at a Chinese restaurant, and you and a friend have been designated as those who are worth the most. You don't have more cash in your pocket, you're just worth more. Now, the way you're going to decide what you eat is by a vote. So, the six people who don't have to pay the bulk of the bill say, let's have the Imperial Banquet, this would be just great. They order the Imperial Banquet, and you and your friend get to pay. And while Senator Beutler will argue this is not a valid reason to change or consider keeping NRDs the way they are, I contend it is. It's easy to make decisions, it's easy to decide to do something if