

SENATOR MARESH: Senator John DeCamp. He wrote to us on the 18th of April. In my area, I have very little state land but in his area he has quite a bit of educational land and funds land and it seems like it is a problem in his area that they are bulldozing these habitats out to put in the pivot type irrigation systems.

SENATOR KOCH: Now, is he referring to the land that was given to the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped or is he referring to other types of lands?

SENATOR MARESH: I believe he is referring to, when he visited with us before, he was talking about the land that belongs to the Lands and Funds that ordinarily is...

SENATOR KOCH: You are talking about the 1,200,000 acres?

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SENATOR KOCH: But you are not in any way referring to lands that are located also in Senator DeCamp's area where we gave permission by law just a month ago that they could proceed and improve that land with center pivots because that money was given to them by a donor with certain conditions in accepting it.

SENATOR MARESH: No, no, he wasn't referring to that. He was referring to the rest of the land that is being developed for irrigation.

SENATOR KOCH: He is referring to the School Lands Management Commission?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: And evidently they are not very careful?

SENATOR MARESH: Educational Lands and Funds.

SENATOR KOCH: And they are not very careful in how they allow improvements to be made?

SENATOR MARESH: They tear out the windbreaks to put in the pivot type irrigation.

SENATOR KOCH: Well, Senator Mares, I have driven in south central Nebraska where I was born and raised and I helped plant some of those windbreaks and they are gone now and that is not under School Lands Management. I guess my question to you is, what is the difference in terms of who is doing it?

SENATOR MARESH: I don't think the state should be doing it when we are trying to promote habitats and providing public funds to develop habitats. So I don't think the state should be destroying these habitats.

PRESIDENT: Is there a close, Senator Mares? Would you like, do you have any concluding remarks?

SENATOR MARESH: I will yield my time to Senator Lamb. He has quite a bit of this land in his area.

PRESIDENT: All right.