

the Lamb amendments, give the responsibility to one subdivision of government in the next few years. I think there is nothing wrong with the expertise of the ground water conservancy districts being used in the Natural Resource Districts. All those individuals need to do is run for position on the NRD. I'm sure that we could use that talent. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are a few points that should be made here about the NRD. The Natural Resource District law of the state is basically flawed. Many people in this Legislature, and certainly people throughout the state know that it is a flawed situation. The reason it's flawed is the election procedure. The election procedure...we're faced with a dilemma. Apparently one man, one vote applies to Natural Resource Districts. In order to give proper representation to rural areas, where most of the activities of the Natural Resource Districts traditionally took place, and take place, and will take place, the election for the board is held district-wide, at large. In my own Natural Resource District we have a resident living one-half mile from the Lieutenant Governor's hometown of Hastings voting on a man or woman who may live one-half mile from David City. What we've had is a very chaotic situation. People are electing a Natural Resource District without really understanding who the people are who are running for the board. They're voting on the basis of a name that they've come across before, even though that name belongs to a different family, for instance. We have a very specific example of that in the Upper Big Blue. We don't know how to accommodate that. What the ground water conservancy district does is to localize control, specifically in one area, ground water conservation, something that is a very volatile issue. If you think it isn't a volatile issue, come out to the Natural Resource District headquartered in York today. You'll find, over the last months, some very heated meetings there because they're talking about metering wells for the extraction of ground water. Frankly, there is a credibility gap, it's a big one. The people in the parts of the NRD that are heavily irrigated are concerned that they do not have sufficient input through the Natural Resource Board. They do have confidence in the ground water conservancy districts. I would like to ask Senator Lamb to respond to a couple questions, if he would please.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Senator Lamb, am I correct in assuming that you do not have any ground water conservancy districts in the Sandhills?

SENATOR LAMB: That is correct.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Senator Lamb, have you received any objections from taxpayers living in ground water conservancy districts, areas concerning the mill levy for the ground water conservancy district?

SENATOR LAMB: No.