

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Bereuter, I'd like to call your attention to this. You said that if a poll was taken you felt that the vote would be overwhelmingly in support of the ground water conservation district rather than the Natural Resource District. The authority that is granted by law to the ground water conservancy district is very, very limited. I would like to quote for you from the section that deals with their authority when the legislation was passed I believe in 1957. They are allowed, number one, to maintain and equip an office and to employ such persons as may be needed, gather information concerning ground water conservation and supply this information as requested to the state agencies. I believe there were three of them. They were authorized to contract with a private individual, association or corporation or any other state agency or subdivision thereof engaged in ground water conservation for performance of the activities mentioned in the sections I just referred to a moment ago. They are allowed by law to cooperate with the extension service to disseminate technical information regarding ground water conservation, adopt rules and regulations to ensure the proper conservation of ground water within the district as provided in section 46-630 and that limits their authority. Now, they are popular. This is true because they are conducting a program that has really no teeth in it and they cannot enforce laws of any kind and any rules of any kind. They can recommend while the Natural Resource District can enforce laws and rules applying to the conservation of ground water so that would make them more acceptable. I'm sure of that, however, my reason for placing this amendment on the desk is this. With the authority that they have for research the small mill levy they have and by the way, they are not utilizing their full mill levy. Most of them that I talked to are assessing a mill levy of something below the one mill. However, it does provide for some funds to conduct research that is then fed into the Natural Resource District that can apply the law and make it work. For example, if a rule is adopted saying that you have to, by law, under LB 577, allow for a greater distance between wells or cut off the installation of wells and so on, the Natural Resource District has to and they have the authority to make that thing work while the ground water districts do not. I guess I'd like to sum it up, Mr. Speaker, and say that I believe that they are performing an important function today that is helpful to the Natural Resource Districts that at least in my district they have to come up with some answers to the declining water table as we see it today. The State of Nebraska along with this area cannot afford for us to pump dry the aquifer that is below this particular Natural Resource District. We're heading for trouble and we need to do something about it and I believe that we need the help of everyone that can possibly give some help in seeing that we can apply good rules and regulations that would stretch out the use of this resource which I call the life blood of Nebraska that is our water. I feel it is very, very important we allow these people to function until such time as they will come in by themselves and if they do not, I'll go along with you in passing legislation in a few years seeing that they do. Mr. Chairman, I trust that we will get enough support to strike the Lamb amendment because of the reasons that I have given.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The question then is the adoption of the Kremer amendment to LB 411. All those in favor vote aye. Opposed nay. Senator Bereuter has requested a record vote. Have you all voted? The question before the House is the adoption of the Kremer amendment. Have you all voted?