

I don't believe is correct. I would think that they should be restricted the same as anybody else of course if there is a shortage of water in the area. In our particular area, we do not have that particular problem. So, I would hate to have a law passed that this land could not be developed. It does produce a lot more income under these conditions than it did before. This land that I am talking about was pasture land and the revenue was very low. The leases incidentally are for twelve years, at least in our case, the well was put in by the School Lands and Fund people and the rest of the equipment all belongs to the leasee. So, there is a lot of investment by the local farmers in this program. I would reject the Burrows amendment because I don't think that it is fair to put that kind of restriction across the State of Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burrows, would you close on your amendment.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think at this point of time when our grain prices are below the cost of production it just makes no sense to use dollars that would be property tax relief to go and dig irrigation wells at state expense to increase the productivity of agriculture so that we can take less dollars for the total product. Or in the event of this if we have allotments in the state, so the rest of the farmers can have smaller allotments eventually as each of these wells will probably put in approximately 15,000 bushels to the additional supply of grain in this state. I can't understand this theory of raising more to sell it for less and running agriculture basically out of business. I think that it is totally unreasonable to end up with what would be property tax relief dollars, to invest these in direct competition of the farmer. This amendment will still leave over \$600,000, the entire amount that they had planned for conservation purposes on these farms. I would not want to tamper with that amount of money. I think that they should have a plan, if they intend to use more, they should have a plan for more than 600,000 for conservation purposes. It does not get into this. It does set guidelines for the department to follow that would say that it should not be a Nebraska state policy to use what would be tax dollars to go in direct competition with the farmers of this state. It does not prevent that leaser or that person with the lease from putting down the well. I have no intentions of getting into this where the private individual goes ahead and puts a well down at his own expense. But, I just can't understand how we can justify in any way taking up what ends up property tax dollars to invest in competition for the farmers that are here in the state. It makes no sense and I think that we ought to take and change the direction of this move with the Legislature and I move the amendment to the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of Senator Burrows amendment. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record. Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, could I request how many are excused?

PRESIDENT: Eleven.