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LB 962

SENATOR BOURNE: Do you know how much...how much authority...and I know we...and I'll be honest with you, I voted no on that bill coming out of committee,...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Uh-huh.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...just to disclose. Do you know how much that will generate if, indeed, all NRDs do the additional penny?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I don't have that number off the top of my head. I've heard. But the point of the matter is there could be only maybe one or two NRDs that would use that full authority. Most NRDs will use less than half of that, and some won't use any.

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. There's not too many taxing entities that don't tax up to their max, but I did hear that argument in committee and I found it less than compelling, no...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, I don't think Papio NRD will levy anything, if that's what you're talking about, for this, this concern.

SENATOR BOURNE: And again, I'm not worried about my locality at all. I'm trying to get a sense of how important the project is, you know, that's contemplated in the committee amendment to LB 962, versus the cost on an ongoing basis to the state. I'm trying to balance those and the harm of what will occur to the entire state, particularly in our rural portion, if we don't go forward with LB 962.

SENATOR SCHROCK: First of all, when I did say that western Nebraska or central Nebraska would be a wasteland, irrigation has made an oasis out of an arid climate...

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...out there. So it's important we have irrigation. It's important that we're able to continue to use irrigation. But considering the resources in some areas, it's going to have to be rationed, and that's what's going to take