

to limit water use in that area, and in order to do these things, the NRD must have some money to do it. Now I don't like taxes any better than Senator Murphy or anybody else but it seems to me that this is a place where we have got to face up to the fact that some money is going to have to be spent to monitor the wells or whatever the NRD decides should be done in order to control the use of the water in areas where there is a short supply. So I think that this increase in the mill levy is justified in this area where the control areas will be faced with the problems of limiting water usage.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle, speaking to the amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to rise to oppose the amendment. We have a serious problem in Nebraska, I think we all realize it, with our water. We have a system of Natural Resources Districts in the state. Generally, I am proud of these people that are willing to serve on these boards and to take the responsibility. The people in my districts that I represent are the cream of the crop. They are well thought of, they wouldn't be elected to the Board, generally are landowners who pay taxes. If we are going to give them the responsibility of controlling and conserving our water supply, we are certainly going to have to fund it in some way or other and I am not ready to believe that they are going to squander the money. I just don't believe they are that kind of people. We have a lot of districts and, of course, it's a cross section of our population. You may have criticism for some and maybe rightly so but I certainly believe that if we are going to control the water situation in the State of Nebraska the way to go is through the NRDs. Whether they have the power to do it, I am not sure. We may have to change that somewhat. Whether they have the funding, I am not sure either and I think that's what this levy possibility is all about. So I certainly hope that we will defeat the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, and especially all of those of you who may have some interest in water, I would like to speak to you a moment about the Murphy amendment and to oppose it and I think there is a question that you are going to have to ask yourself about the Murphy amendment and I think it is much broader than the question of taxation. I think we