

continue building reservoirs, to put on land treatment because this is a matter of getting recharge to the water. Now the control area is just controlling the amount of water that they are using from the underground aquifers. So I feel that they do need the mill levy. In the Upper Blue area, they can get along a couple of years on the quarter mill levy and they are not going to even use it but there are other areas in the State of Nebraska that they do need it and they are in dire need of funds. I can recall in the past year that you asked for a use tax for the meters. Now there is a lot of opposition among farmers on use tax and they don't want to hear anything about this. So I feel that we can't go that direction. So we are going to have to go this direction to help those individual NRDs that do have that authority. Now if we do give this to the state, it is going to cost us a lot more money than you'd have it out there in the local area controlling it themselves. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I think it has been pretty well explained and said what needs to be said that we are not talking about the general appropriation for the operation of the NRD. We are only talking about the mill levy that is allowed if and when an NRD or an area adjacent to an NRD goes under control. Now I will use for an example the Upper Republican. That is where our problem is. Their water table has dropped something around fifteen feet in three years and they feel strong that time has come that something has to be done. We are going to live by the law of the jungle and let everything go as it will and hope it comes out all right and it won't and we have been irresponsible. This does give a Natural Resource District, now mark this, when they are under control, they can assess an additional three-quarters of a mill or up to one mill. It does not say that they will assess one mill but up to one mill in order to enforce rules and regulations to monitor the measuring devices, if they are installed, and to make corrections, if they need to be corrected or repairs, if repairs are needed. This is all. Now in the other control area that is going under control, I understand they don't need it now but our State Constitution says we have to apply the same, we've got to be fair with everyone and the time may come we will have to in the other areas. So once again this applies only in case that an area goes under control in order to allow them to enforce rules and regulations to monitor the wells and whatever it is is needed. So I oppose the Murphy amendment.