

additional controls, only in those designated control areas, and nowhere else. So I think that we have laid those fears to rest. I raised earlier the point about if we do not expand this authority that areas which do not necessarily need controls will be in the control area. That is one thing that might happen. The other thing that might happen is that they will simply increase air general levy and tax the entire Natural Resource District to fund the controls in a given area and that I don't believe is justified and that is against even more the philosophy expressed by Senator Schmit and Senator DeCamp. Finally I would say to Senator Schmit and to Senator Murphy who are concerned about some of the activities of the Natural Resource Districts, and I share some of your concerns, that what we need to do is to change the scope of authority of the Natural Resource Districts and eliminate them from doing some of the things that we don't like. They are creatures of the Legislature, and if we don't like what they are doing, we can change their authority and we can stop them from doing what they are doing but we do want them to control the groundwater in the State of Nebraska. Now, personally, I am not sure that the Natural Resource Districts should have anything to do with habitat or recreation but they have that authority under existing law as mandated by this Legislature previously. Now I would be more than happy to take that away and, Senator Murphy, believe me, if you sponsor a bill like that, I will do everything I can to get it out of committee and on the floor but I don't think that that issue should become intertwined with this issue which is control of underground water in the State of Nebraska. When we are talking about the control areas and the general tax, I think it is appropriate that there is some general tax involved because I look again at my Box Butte County situation and the area there that may have problems as far as controls are concerned and one of the largest users of water, the people that withdraw great quantities of water, are the City of Alliance and they have a well field north of Alliance and the residents of Alliance, which includes businesses and industry, through a general tax do pay, would pay, if there were a control area, part of controlling underground water, part of the expense of controlling underground water, and that problem is partly created by those people and I think they should share some of the burden...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: ...for that problem. So I do hope that we can reject the Murphy amendment and get on to discussion