

subdivisions. The Natural Resource Districts clearly have the responsibility. It is not good government to have two political subdivisions in the same area with the same responsibilities. Further, I think we need to recognize the problems with the spending limitation has caused and that really is the gist, the impetus to keep this alive so that there is additional taxing authority to carry on additional water related functions but let's not allow the need to remove the spending lid to be a part of the effort to keep two conflicting and competing political subdivisions in existence. I urge your opposition to this bill.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Vickers, speaking to the bill as a whole.

**SENATOR VICKERS:** Mr. Speaker, members, I, too, rise in opposition to LB 81. As Senator Sieck pointed out the functions being performed by the groundwater conservation districts are I believe, to use his terms, to control water runoff, to monitor water quality and another reason for their existence that he mentioned was that the directors are farmers themselves so we have farmers talking to farmers which raises the level of concern on the farmer's part as far as the use of water is concerned. I would suggest to this body that that is exactly what the Natural Resources Districts are doing. We have a problem with water runoff out in my part of the state also. The Natural Resources Districts are doing a good job in that area. We are also developing a problem with water quality in the Republican Valley. Again, the Natural Resources Districts in that area are monitoring it very closely. Most of the directors, I will agree not all of the directors, but most of the directors of the Natural Resources Districts are also farmers. I think they have also raised the level of awareness of the farmers in my area of the need to conserve and to preserve the natural resources including water. I agree with Senator Cullan. I think this is another one of those many bills that we have this session that is an indirect attempt to circumvent the lid. They have a problem and I am certainly not going to stand here and tell you that they don't have a problem. They do have a problem with the seven percent lid, but if we advance this, then we are saying that certain Natural Resources Districts have a way to get around that lid or a way to address that problem while others don't. If the groundwater conservation districts are such a great thing, why weren't they all over the state. Why did the Legislature in its wisdom decide to abolish them after the Natural Resources Districts were started? I think what we have here is a perfect example of the way government works. Once you get an entity started, I don't care what it is doing, even if it is doing the same thing another entity is doing, it is