

it is today is adequate, and I have a motion to indefinitely postpone LB 24 that will be coming up later. The problem is...that Senator Haberman is addressing is that there are some county attorneys and there are some sheriffs and there are other people who are afraid to enforce the existing law and afraid to enforce the fine system that we have now. Today, as I understand it, it is a Class V misdemeanor, which means up to \$100 fine. Now, I don't see why a county attorney who is afraid to enforce the current system is going to be any more likely to enforce a tougher penalty. That simply just is not logical. Now you can file a complaint if you want to if you see water on a road, and I know some individuals in western Nebraska who have done that. I know some Natural Resource Districts who have approached farmers, told them that they have to correct the problem. So I don't think the problem is anywhere near as great as some of you believe it is, and it is simply a matter of enforcement and the Legislature certainly is not going to improve the situation by increasing the penalty. The only thing you are going to do is make county attorneys less likely to enforce it if they believe that the penalty is not reasonable. I believe the current system works well. Maybe we need stronger enforcement, but this bill certainly is not going to help that. Maybe what you want to do is give the Natural Resource Districts the authority to initiate an action. That might be one means of solving this problem. But just simply to increase the fine does nothing at all. Sometimes when you drive on a country road and you come across one of these wet roads, there may be several reasons for it. I don't know how many of you have worked around center pivot sprinkler systems before. We have about five on our farm and sometimes these mechanisms just don't work, and when we find that they are not working we get out there and repair them, and most people do. But there has to be some discretion in enforcement. Simply increasing the fines is not going to do anything at all. Some of you should know too that the wind often blows water onto the road and saturates it pretty good. Just the way the systems are constructed, that is going to happen now and then and people out there seem to be getting along pretty well. I think we are trying to solve a problem that isn't...doesn't need solving and I hope that you will support me later in this motion to indefinitely postpone LB 24.