

protect water resources throughout the State of Nebraska. There is simply no denying the relationship between surface and ground water in the state and we may deny it legally but there is certainly no denying the physical connection between surface and ground water in many parts of the state, and to give the Natural Resource District this additional tool will be a benefit to the state in the long run, granted that it may be a difficult tool for them to use but I think now is the time for us to recognize this and I urge you to support this section of the amendment as well as the other section dealing with subirrigation. So I think Senator Vickers is moving in the right direction and what we have to do in the future is continue to expand the authority and power granted to the Natural Resource Districts under the ground water management act.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit, did you want to talk on the first division of the question?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise again in vigorous opposition to the first division and I would also extend that opposition to the second. I want to point out to you several days ago here we discussed long and loud and vociferously whether or not we could add two million dollars to the water development fund. That was two million dollars of state general fund tax money. Some of the very proponents of this amendment were most outspoken in opposition to that addition of money but today, ladies and gentlemen, if you adopt this amendment, if you adopt this amendment you are giving away to the state, you are giving away to the state billions of dollars worth of value of the underground water. Now it is fine for those of you who don't have any interest in that, those who live in the city and do not use that water or have a right to have reasonable access to it in your operation or your livelihood. But any person who is an overlying land owner who votes for this amendment is being absolutely ridiculously foolish. You are giving away billions of dollars worth of assets to the state and you are placing the control of that asset in the hands of the Natural Resource Districts. Now I have expressed my confidence in them many times but, ladies and gentlemen, I will tell you this very frankly, if this amendment is adopted, LB 146 will not be passed into law because you may on a sleepy afternoon adopt an amendment which a great many people don't understand, but when the word gets back to the country and the word comes back to the Legislature, well, you are not going to change Senator Beutler or a few of the others because they don't really have any particular interest, financial interest. But when the word comes back from McCook and from Valentine and Scottsbluff