

SENATOR KREMER: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is rather difficult to stand up and oppose things that I would like to like this. I have no problem with talking of a 60 year minimum...or a 30 year minimum. I don't think there is going to be a single NRD, no matter who they are, that is going to go that far down. I don't think they will, but I want to say once again that it is impractical to establish a minimum not knowing what we can do with Nebraska's water until we store some water and then we are going to be able to look at what we can do in the State of Nebraska. I point out again that we have got a number of areas, 4 or 5 and probably 6 in the near future, when they discover there is going to be no way how we are going to determine how long we are going to make an aquifer last. I think it is going to be more than 30 years, but at this point I am not willing to put that into writing. This is not the time and I have full confidence that the NRD boards and they are people just like we are, they are even closer to it than we are, they are grass roots people, and they are doing the best possible job that they can, and I think we ought to let them do it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I certainly support putting a definitive number in this legislation. Whether 30 years or a 100 years or 70 years is right, I wouldn't say that, but I would say certainly a definitive number ought to be put in. I think Senator Kremer's arguments sort of beg for a minimum number. I guess it is a matter of what comes first, the chicken or the egg. He is saying, when we store water, when we put in conservation techniques, when we have increased technology, then we can talk about a minimum, or talk about a definitive period of time. I would just say the opposite, that if we put a definitive period of time and that, in fact, is what our objective is, then that will stimulate all these conservation tactics, all these storage schemes that need to be made to lengthen the duration of the life of that aquifer. You know, I think if this body doesn't believe strongly enough that this legislation is going to protect groundwater for a period of time of at least 30 years, then I wonder what we are doing in even fooling with it. You know, that is a lot of our lifetimes. Thirty years is not a very long time. I hope it is within my lifetime. But I certainly, and I think many people in this body certainly many people with land, with interest in agriculture think not only in terms of their lifetime but in terms of their childrens' lifetime, and I think basically if we really analyze it, most agricultural oriented people