

to have a control area. Another county is trying to zone an area out there for land use planning. This legislation here would let them have a management area. I think it basically solves their problem. My point is if they want land use planning, they can come straight-forward with legislation that deals with that. Therefore, I would oppose this amendment and the other amendments that are in the Journal too. Thank you.

SENATOR HEFNER: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I also would oppose the amendment. The discussion is centered around as if the only alternative for the farmer was to go to a center pivot if he was ditch irrigating and the amount of water was reduced. There are other alternatives and the main one that ought to be looked at is a shift to grain sorghum and soybeans that can raise decent or good crops with minimum amounts of water. We have had a state and we have had maybe some of the people from the University speaking of irrigation as if it were only corn as a crop that could be grown. Well, that is the big thing, if we get into water management, we are going to have to look at in the State of Nebraska and that is alternate crops. Sorghum in southeast Nebraska almost any year can raise a good crop, a near top yield with three to five inches of additional water from irrigation. As you go west it takes a little more than that. But we have the crops that are alternatives to corn and when the limitation on the amount of water comes down, when you have to put less water on it to maintain an underground supply, different crops are the main thing we have to look at. I think we have got to look to the University for the lead for what we write in law here, and they are not even recognizing really, many of the people there, the real choices we are going to have to make down the road as our water is depleted, and I think the Legislature is going to have to take the lead and maybe get the ideas out and get...and hope that the University will take the lead in pushing crops that take less water than corn, not necessarily just that top yield for that top dollar take. Sure, corn is the king of irrigated crops, but if we have to use less water, the alternative is not necessarily a center pivot. It can be less water by going to grain sorghum, soybeans and these crops that will get top yields and maybe more profitable yields than what corn will when you are pushing for that maximum yield under the high costs of energy and high costs of fertilizer. I would urge the body to reject the Hoagland amendment. I feel that Senator Hoagland simply doesn't understand it from the farmer's point of view what is going on out here