

supporting this bill and you've had letters from them and from some NRDs up there but I cannot vote for the bill because I do not believe they understand the ramifications of this bill. These subirrigated meadows are a great resource up there, admittedly and no doubt that they are threatened in some places but this bill is an oversimplification of the problem and the NRD through the mechanism set up in this bill is not going to be able to deal with it. You're going to have all kinds of ranchers who are going to turn against those NRDs as soon as the effects of this bill come into play. You are going to have the NRDs in an impossible situation and you can do that if you like but I can't do it. Twenty years from this day if I vote for this bill, those ranchers, and I may not be around then at that time. I feel confident that they are going to tell me that I was right in opposing the bill because it won't do what they want to do and it will lead to some regulation that they will not like. You know there are many kinds of subirrigated or a couple at least, of subirrigated meadows. You have subirrigated meadows where the water goes all the way down to the main aquifer, the Ogallala aquifer. It is a deep one. Then you have other subirrigated meadows which are on a perched, a so-called perched aquifer where there is a strata down there that holds the surface water up so it is really surface water. So if you have an irrigation well in that area, instead of drying up that wet meadow, you're likely to flood it because you are pumping water from way deep. You are bringing it up on the surface...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR LAMB: ...and then it stays in that area and so you have a reversed problem and I don't think the NRDs can handle that problem. I think once they have tried to handle that problem the ranchers are going to rebel. They are not going to want to see what happens. One more item. We have what is called conjunctive use. This one rancher has a subirrigated meadow where the water is within one foot or so of the surface. He has it made. It is great. He has his neighbor over here where his land is just a little bit higher and so it is ten feet or twenty or thirty feet to water. What you are really telling that second rancher is, although you have a lot of water down under your meadow, you are not going to be able to use it because if you use it, you are going to be taking it away from the fellow that has the subirrigated meadow. Now this is a difficult problem. I recognized it, that the people with the subirrigated meadows in some cases are going to suffer loss but on the other hand doesn't the other fellow have a right to do some irrigating? Oversimplification, this bill is oversimplification. It will not do what