

about it, is an amendment to 577 of 1975 and I echo Senator Cullan's comments in regard to the genius of Senator Kremer in putting LB 577 together back there in 1975. This is not a new concept in spite of what a lot of people have said. This is nothing new. It is simply an amendment, a fine tuning of a bill that has been here in existence, the Groundwater Management Act, since 1975. Now if it hasn't worked, then tell the people out there in the Upper Republican it isn't working. Tell people in Senator Haberman's district it isn't working. That is what this bill is all about and it is also about local control and the fact that if you believe that it is possible for us to put things in the statutes to cause local people to overcontrol themselves, then vote against the bill. But if you think the local people are smart enough to not overcontrol their own self, then I suggest you vote for the bill. If you really believe in local control, then let's give the tools to those local people that they think they need to address that situation. Now it was also mentioned that this is special interest legislation and I think that is rather funny. We dealt with a bill in here yesterday and I fought it for tooth and toenail dealing for one city, originally introduced for one city. Special interest legislation? That is something new in this body? For crying out loud, we all know that is silly. Senator Beutler, would you like to have the rest of the time in closing?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd just like to make a couple brief remarks.

PRESIDENT: About a minute, Senator, go ahead.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The lakes in the Sandhills, the wet meadows, they do occasionally dry up by acts of God. Unfortunately the acts of God are not all benevolent from time to time but that's also true and everybody on the Public Works Committee is very aware of the fact that they also dry up because the groundwater level drops because irrigators are using the groundwater. Common sense tells you that. You have to have two glass eyes not to see what is happening. If you don't give the sodbuster and the cattleman a tool for reconciling their differences, I suggest to you that we in the Legislature will not be doing our job. It was suggested that we shouldn't give the NRDs this power because all the NRDs don't need the power. Well I ask you to turn that around. Doesn't it make more sense to give the power because some need it than to deny it to all because all do not need it? It was also suggested that a control area is some kind of concept frozen in time, that we put it in place, there it is, for better or worse, forever. A control area is in the hands of the creator and can be molded and remolded by the creator and the creator is local control of the local