

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I think there's a couple of things involved here but, number one, yes, the frustration on some of the farmers and the realization by Tri-County, for the most part, that they will not use the fee nor do they want to, they have simply come to the conclusion that we'll go ahead and get rid of it and it will kind of ease the tension between some of the two groups.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I might also...Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District did come this time and testify in favor of the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, as I recall, this really only affected your area of the state, that Platte Valley and on down a little ways.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Actually, the incidental affects a few more portions than that throughout the state but particularly the reason I brought the bill up was for Keith, Lincoln and Dawson Counties and those areas where it was extremely effective. However, there are other areas where there have been bubbles under underground water that have incidentally stored water.

SENATOR WESELY: All right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: This is not, by the way, if it's planned or intentional storage, those fees are all still within the system that we have.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Well I didn't mean to imply that incidental recharge doesn't occur anywhere else but just that the issue itself and the fee itself was focused primarily in the middle part of the state.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, thank you very much. Appreciate that explanation. If Senator Schmit had anymore to add, I would appreciate hearing from him on this but I think I understand where we're coming from.