

amendments. Many years ago when I was on the Natural Resources Committee with Senator Kremer, Senator Kremer I think was the sponsor of at least three extensions himself. Senator Kremer was a very thoughtful and a very honored senator who got a lot of good done for the State of Nebraska on groundwater and basically was instrumental in setting up the natural resources system. And one of the things he was trying to accomplish was to get all of the various kinds of districts that existed in the state at that time, conservation districts, canal districts, special assessment districts of one type or another, get a handle on them, get them under control, have one political subdivision doing that work. And a deal was made and everybody agreed that that's what they would do and basically that is what happened. It was a veritable miracle of sorts. But then a few of them welsed and those handful of conservation districts have continued to get extensions and be exceptions to the general rule from the very beginning until this point in time. Now they do do good work and the committee was impressed with the testimony and for that reason there was not much argument about granting at least a three year extension. The three year extension is the same size extension that had been granted in the past. Now there is nothing magic about three years except just consider this one point. What message do you want to give? Do you want to give the message that the policy of this Legislature is to work back to the problem situation that we had before where there may be multiple kinds of districts doing overlapping functions? If you start being more lenient on these types of rules which would be represented by a five year extension, then someone...the next thing that is going to happen is that someone is going to see that there is a conservation district in this NRD and they are going to say can't I have a conservation district in my district? Why not? Everybody wants it. And pretty soon you have a proliferation once again of all these various kinds of districts which is what we sought in the early 1970s to get away from, the very thing we're trying to get away from. So at least if you hold the exemption to another three years, you're not giving that message encouraging people to get involved with a multitude of kinds of districts. I think we should hold to that message that we've given, that we like the NRD system, that it should basically handle the situation. We do have an oddball situation here, fine, let's let it exist for a little while longer, but let's not change in any way the general attitude of this Legislature towards the regulation of natural resources. Thank you.