

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 529 of the Legislative Journal.) 30 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now proceed to the bill and we have Senator Moore. Raise the call.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, after that vote I'll have more sympathy next time my Omaha colleagues come in and say, well, this deals just with Omaha, just with Lincoln, we've agreed on it, let us do it, and I always say, well, yeah, there is a principle I have that I need to deal with here and that way I can't agree with you because the people involved, Senator Coordsen, Senator Johnson and myself all agreed the best way to move forward here, but nevertheless, hopefully that committee amendment and this bill will breeze along now. I would prefer five years over three years, but obviously beggars can't be choosy and I will leave it at that. But nevertheless, a couple things I think need to be reiterated at least as far as what actually is going on here and a couple of the speeches in support of the committee amendments is kind of an opposition to the concept I think need to be understood. Now one thing oftentimes people think, well, wait a second, if the groundwater conservation districts have a taxing authority and the NRD's have a taxing authority, isn't there kind of some double taxation and is this a loophole for where the NRD or someone can garner more money? Well, I guess if the NRD was up to their lid, you could argue this is a loophole to get around it, but the fact is that the Upper Big Blue NRD is far below their maximum levy authority. Their groundwater conservation district is far below their maximum levy authority. If you added the two together they would still be far below what the levy is in many NRD's across the State of Nebraska so it's not that you're trying to find a wormy way for some additional taxing authority. Simply, what we have occurring is you have two entities that do have a similar scope and do have a similar mission but they have worked together. It is my hope that they continue to work together and I think another thing that needs to be pointed out is that unlike the NRD's where every taxpayer in that entity is paying the way, in these groundwater conservation districts the tax is levied only on the rural area. So myself who lives in the city limits of Seward, my friends in York and Hebron in the city limits, they are not paying for this service. The farmers that use it is paying for this service and you certainly do not