

regard...or to record the increase or decrease in the groundwater contamination. It also allows NRDs to require an analysis of deep soils for fertilizer or chemical content. The bill is a very simple bill, but it does establish a number of criteria, a number of goals, number of responsibilities for the Natural Resource Districts, which at the present time many of them are already pursuing. But this does place legislative sanction upon that activity, and gives them the impetus to do a more comprehensive program insofar as water quality is concerned for the benefit of all Nebraskans. I would answer any questions. I do not foresee any problem with the bill. I think it is a bill which ought to pass almost with acclamation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We'll go now to Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Schmit, as I read this bill and listen to you, this bill sounds like a pretty big deal, I mean a good deal, but a big deal. Giving the NRDs some water quality is something that we must work on in this state. Am I wrong that this is kind of, not a big step, but it's a nice step forward on giving the NRDs the statutory authority to do something. Is that correct, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is correct.

SENATOR MOORE: I mean, I just feel like it's more than a consent calendar bill, because it does some big things. But I'm glad that we all should agree on it, so it's fine that it's there. I don't have any concern about that.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Many of my bills do great things, Senator.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, many of your bills do big things, not always great things, Senator Schmit. This one does great things and good things, which is unusual for some of your bills. (Laughter.) But, nevertheless, Senator Schmit, the only concern I have is, if you give the NRDs this authority, how are they going to pay for it? And I know that there are some special taxing districts and special taxing things for groundwater quality. I think Senator Coordsen has a bill that addresses that. Would this bill lead to the need for additional taxing authority for the NRDs that have to pursue an aggressive groundwater quality plan?