

the same time, the ability to pay for this is in question. And so perhaps, I don't know, Senator Coordsen, if it would be possible to reach a compromise on this. But perhaps what we need to do is allow the flexibility of the local NRD to do what they think is appropriate in either case. For instance, it may be appropriate to continue to allow the local control area to have some taxing authority, which I think your bill originally tried to eliminate, but also allow that NRD the option of some additional broad based authority, the half cent or whatever that was proposed by the committee, so that we could rely on our local elected boards to make a determination of what made the most sense in the circumstance. We cannot, in a blanket, cover the state on the circumstances we may be facing out there. There may be situations that it makes sense to have a groundwater area and have them pay for and deal with the problem. It may not make sense in other cases and there we should have a broader district of taxation. So all I'm offering is that perhaps both sides are right on this. Perhaps we need to allow for both options and allow our local NRD boards to determine what they think is the best approach, and so I would offer up that suggestion as one way we might resolve this conflict.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. Colleagues, I think that a little discussion about the genesis and evolution of this problem would be appropriate. To begin with, no one realized the consequences that might follow the use of agricultural chemicals, herbicides, all the lawn and garden products, the things that universities and the United States government brought to agriculture, brought to the citizens of the United...of Nebraska, and Lincoln, and Omaha, and the rural areas. Individuals, as they use these products, over the evolution of time, did so with the recommendations of and the help of the University of Nebraska, various federal and state...and various other federal and state government agencies. Industries that are involved in these kinds of things, in a very large majority, always followed all of the rules, regulations, necessary licensures and activities at the time that they were operating. As the problem became more widely known and identified newer regulations took the place of the old. Many of these industries and agriculture, too, are now being asked to go back as individuals, or as a group to try to alleviate this problem, which they, at the time, thought they were addressing