

February 3, 1992 LB 349

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Elmer, you are next.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This, LB 349, is a very, very serious thing for Nebraska because it is very costly. FIFRA, for the body's information, requires that the applicators in Nebraska, first, that they keep records of their application; second, assurance that applicators have been trained and have a license to apply the agricultural chemicals; and that, third, that the applications must follow the labels that are provided for by the EPA. This is being done statewide at this time. This bill doesn't change that, so I'd ask Senator Johnson how this is more of a groundwater protection plan than we already have? If you would yield, Senator Johnson.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Elmer, right now, FIFRA is being implemented in Nebraska by federal personnel. I think that in the federal office there may be only two personnel that I am aware of that are actually carrying out the enforcement aspects of the program, which is very limited, obviously, to a state our size and the amount of chemicals that are used in this state because we are highly agriculturally intensive, but as far as your original question, which was, I believe, how is this going to improve our groundwater strategy?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, Senator Johnson, the requirements that are being made in the FIFRA bill that Nebraska would implement are identical to those already in place, how would spending all this state money for the same type of regulation improve our groundwater quality?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Senator, you are going to have to give me more specifics about what programs we have in place that we are duplicating through this FIFRA program because I realize we have special protection areas, special management areas through the NRDs for water quality problems. Those are...I think we only have one right now in the State of Nebraska in Senator Coordsen's District, but you'd have to give me further examples because I am not aware of those programs.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay, we are talking about, Senator Johnson, a statewide program that is now being administered through the