

of the consequences, some of the things that have happened. The one case that we're aware of, I think, was a gopher bait problem and I think, by 1994, it's very necessary that we do it. Sure, we can always wait a year and take a chance but I don't see any reason to wait a year, Senator.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. I guess, I kind of have mixed emotions about this bill. I think it's something that's probably needed but I'm not sure that it's going to come out the way that we want it to come out, so I'm going to listen some more to the...to just see what happens. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, this bill we're debating here, the FIFRA act to be put into place in Nebraska, has a lot of implications that many of you don't probably realize. As to the amendment we're discussing, it seems like, as Senator Beutler put it in the conversation we had a little earlier, to have a unified, single pesticide water plan for the State of Nebraska may be something like searching for the Holy Grail. We all know that every Natural Resource District and watershed has different problems, has different types of aquifers, has different types of agricultural activity. In some NRDs, there is virtually no agricultural activity, like up in the Sandhills, very, very little. In others, there is hardly enough water to have domestic water and they have to have water districts in order to have domestic water. In others, the water is so close to the surface that it's heavily impacted by the farming practices. Our NRDs are now in the process of getting plans put together that fit and fit their areas well. I would suggest that we allow these...the NRDs to continue to evolve these water plans that fit and that fit the people of their district and they have the local control over those things. The DEC or the Department of Environmental Quality, as it may be called later, should have some input from the state level as far as recommendations and after the studies have been done in the local areas by the NRDs for the special management areas and the special protection areas that are now in the process of being successfully implemented on those local levels. We realize that the DEC has good expertise to offer, working with those local authorities. And I would suggest to you also that when this bill was originally...when this bill had its public hearing, there was no mention of a groundwater management plan for pesticides or any other type of groundwater management.