

have developed a piece of legislation or not I think is moot. It worked. That draft became the focal point of the following discussion and is embodied, for the most part, in what you now have before you. If we had not done that, our process would have likely failed altogether, and nothing would have been brought to you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: And then the complaint could have been legitimately that we wasted a very large amount time and a very large amount of resources.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, there is probably no one issue more important to the district I represent than water. The 38th District has a lot of irrigation in it. I have two NRDs and part of the third one, and three irrigation districts. Before the Legislature convened, I met with all of the irrigation districts--the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District at Cambridge, even though it is in Owen Elmer's District, about half of the irrigated acres are in the legislative district I serve; the Bostwick Irrigation District, which is the district between the Harlan County Reservoir and the Kansas line of Superior on the Republican River; and, of course, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the largest surface irrigation project in the state of Nebraska, which, of course, uses its source of water as Kingsley Dam. And the two NRDs that I checked with was the Tri-Basin NRD and the Lower Republican NRD. All of these irrigation districts and NRDs support LB 108 and conjunctive water use, and I think there has been enough safeguards put in there, thanks to the Governor's Water Council, that they felt like it was a good bill. And I would also make a point out as I go over who served on these boards, I can't pick out one person on any of those boards that isn't a farmer. Terry Woollen, who is a farmer north of Alma, serves on the negotiating team between...for Nebraska as it concerns the Republican River Compact between Nebraska and Kansas, and Senator Elmer made some good comments about that. When you talk about credibility, the three largest farm organizations in the state of Nebraska, Farm Bureau, Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Cattlemen Association all have endorsed the bill, and I think if you'll