

very best. And when we inject state government into the process, then we take away a certain amount of that local control. These people know what's good for them. They don't want to hurt their own soil and water, this is...they're the people that farm that ground. And thanks to the fact that we don't have the one man, one vote, issue out there; we still have farmers on our board of directors. They don't hurt their soil. They know what is best for our district and they do not want state intervention. You can give state intervention easily, but you can't take it away easily. Once you provide that, it's there forever. You can't take it away. It's the same way with government controls on the federal level. Once they give it to you, once you let them have it, it's over with. We have an excellent system of natural resource districts. They do an excellent job of protecting our land, our soil, our water supply, the safety of our water. They do an excellent job and we don't need...we do not need the state bureaucracy involved to the degree that 108 allows them to do that. The ability for NRDs to gather information from the Department of Water Resources is not damaged with my amendment. They still can get that. The map that Senator Schrock had sent out to you is a little bit misleading today, folks. This is dated, Fall of 1992. The more current one came out just last week and there it shows the current water shortage areas in Nebraska are still in the very southeast corner and one out in Box Butte County and that's it. The rest of the state has got better water supply than it had before. It's a net gain everywhere. I don't have copies of it. I just have this one but this just came last week from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Our water supply is managed extremely well in Nebraska. We have no reason to be changing it. Our NRDs have done an excellent job and I feel there's no reason for us to go ahead with 108 as it exists. If you will accept this amendment which still provides for conjunctive water use, still provides for controlling instream flows, still provides for the grandfathering clause, then I'll have no more discussion on the bill and we can move ahead to other issues. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. First of all, I want to applaud Senator Dierks for working at trying to come with a reasonable compromise on this bill. I am frankly, Senator Dierks, uncertain as to what I'll do. I want to ask