

want to do that. None of us want to get more water than is necessary for federal government, for whatever their purposes are. We don't want to do those things. But we're in a world where we have to live with other people and we have to do those things. So down in the Republican Valley the senators here from that area, the NRDs from that area are all in concurrence that this particular mechanism that Senator Dierks is trying to extract is a necessity. They're comfortable with it, they want it, they know it's the kind of relationship that's necessary to bring everybody to the table, to get everybody working together. Now up in Senator Dierks' area, Senator Schellpeper's area, I would frankly be amazed if this bill were ever put into use in the next 50 years because there just aren't those situations up in that area of the state. But I think they ought to be cognizant of and want reasonable solutions to what are very, very serious problems in other areas of the state. The Panhandle needs this bill. Southeast Nebraska, southwest Nebraska, that is, needs this bill. The Platte areas, they need this bill. And what we're trying to do with this bill is to get ahead of the game, to get ahead of the game so that we can resolve crises with things like best management practices, and never have to resolve crises with moratoriums, no well drilling, or ending...or curtailing, in some serious fashion, a person's ability to use water. I passed out to you, and I wanted to us it in another context, but Senator Elmer made me aware that now the Upper Republican NRD is asking for a moratorium in their area because of the quantity of ground water and the fact that they cannot slow down the depletion of the ground water. That area is going dry.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** And they have made magnificent efforts to try to manage, and they've slowed it down tremendously. But, you know, the fact of the matter is because they started so late I'm not sure they're ever going to get control of it because they started so late. And that's not a criticism of them, I mean, things happen in historical cycles. It takes us time to figure out what's going on, or scientific information about water was not great in past years, isn't terrific today. You know, we're all still learning about these things. But, by golly, I think if we can get ahead of the game, we can prevent what's happening today to those Upper Republican farmers, we can prevent that. They don't have to go through that instability and that trauma.