

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Doesn't the...doesn't the concerns involve ground water pumping in the Upper Republican Natural Resource District? Don't those...what are the concerns of the NRD there?

SENATOR ELMER: The concerns of the NRD and that aquifer are more maintenance of the aquifer so that it can be used by future generations, rather than to protect some...anything else and, of course,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: Of course, within the ground water authorities that currently the NRDs have, they could only address controls to make the aquifers that they are the stewards for, longer lived and able to support economic development or economic benefit for longer periods. And is...that is addressed by all of the NRDs across the state with their ground water management plans that they have just completed.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. First of all, I do want to applaud the efforts of Senator Beutler and the Natural Resources Committee and all of those that have been involved in writing this legislation. I know that many hours have been spent, but, personally, as a ground water irrigator, I do have concerns. And I've been talking with many of the farmers in my area, many of the farmers that are also members of the groups that supposedly have signed on to the bill, that are concerned about the bill, and possibly not as much as how the bill is written today, but actually the effect of having this vehicle in the Legislature and what might be done in future years. And I guess that point was really brought to my mind last week. Thinking back in 1990, when 1059 was passed and some of the promises that were made and...and I know the legislators presently that are serving in the Legislature are not always accountable to what was passed in previous years, and I guess that's where my concern is, is to the future. This bill does affect the future of our family and many families in Nebraska. Irrigation adds about \$2.3 billion to the Nebraska