

the Upper Republican and the NRD's efforts with that. Don't you think the NRD, the Upper Republican NRD, is working effectively to solve any problems they have in your...in their district?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Dierks, they have done as much as they...they have done a great deal to reduce the...to reduce the amount of water that's being withdrawn from the aquifer in their NRD. And they have currently applied...passed a resolution and sent to the Department of Water Resources a request to issue a moratorium on the construction of any additional irrigation wells in the Upper Republican. And that moratorium will be put into effect. So, no new irrigation wells will be allowed in the Upper Republican because of the depletion of the aquifer.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. They are doing an effective job, then, in your opinion?

SENATOR ELMER: As effective as they can with the powers they have to control and try to maintain the aquifer for future economic use.

SENATOR DIERKS: What more would LB 108 do to improve their ability to control the ground water?

SENATOR ELMER: The ability of 108, as far as the Upper Republican is concerned, lies within the fact that the Republican River is a fully appropriated stream. That means all of the surface water in the Republican River basin has been appropriated for a beneficial purpose, for irrigation or recreation purposes, and there's no further water available. If we are going to be able to manage our resources properly in the Republican River basin, we'll need to be able to address problems that arise between surface and ground water users. If the Middle and Lower Republican NRDs wish to act to help preserve our resource of the Republican River stream, we are going to need to begin now to instigate and promote best management practices, curtailing the use of ground water in the alluvial plain of the Republican River, if we are going to maintain the resource. If we're going to maintain the resource. We can't wait. If we continue to wait, continue to develop, we will reach a point where it will be beyond the ability of our Natural Resource District to manage the water supply without