

economic damage to all concerned.

SENATOR DIERKS: You'll have to tell me a little bit more about that because I think that the NRD has the ability to manage their water supply right now. And everything you've told me up to this point doesn't say that there's a need for 108, it just says that...

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. Let me try to be more clear, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: The current law allows...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: The current law allows an NRD to control water use from a ground water aquifer. Period. It does not allow them to control water in a ground water aquifer to enhance or mitigate a problem with surface water.

SENATOR DIERKS: In other words...in other words, we're looking at litigation?

SENATOR ELMER: Very likely so, in...(inaudible).

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that's somewhat amazing from the standpoint that they've been able to control their problems up to date, and had a great problem with the Enders...Enders area, and also a great problem with the Republican River flowing to Kansas. I guess it's amazing to me that we have to have 108 to provide them with anything if they don't already have the power to do. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President, and members of the body, this probably is one of the most important issues we'll be dealing with this year and there's been a lot of work done on it, and I just keep getting letters and phone calls from my district, especially the...here's one from the Ainsworth Irrigation District opposing it, and I got another one from the Atkinson