

element in this population and, most of all, we should not be afraid of it on the part of the NRDs, whose boards are all the local farmers out there who are affected by what the NRDs do. That's probably the greatest protection in all of this, as everybody is well aware, and of course that protection is heavily oriented towards the ground water user. You know, it doesn't make any difference who declares this management area and who is the impetus behind setting it up. The bottom line practical matter is you cannot administer any of these plans without the cooperation of the NRDs, without the cooperation of the ground-water-dominated NRDs. Doesn't make any difference if DWR sets up the plan. They don't have the money. They don't have the personnel. They aren't going to send people out to Red Willow County to administer a management plan. That's preposterous. We all know it's preposterous. It's the good will of all the people involved that's important and the people in the...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..Republican area and their representatives, the people in the Platte and some of their representatives, the people in the Panhandle and their representatives are telling you, we want to deal with these problems, we want to deal with them in advance, we trust the system to create more stability than just letting things go. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before continuing, we have one more group in the north balcony. Senator Roger Wehrbein has as his guests 13 seniors from an American government class at Nebraska City's Lourdes High School. Would you all please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I spoke to you one day here not too long ago about the number of new wells being drilled in Nebraska and it was at zero percent last year. Well, I've got a new release here. This is from Dick Grosch, who's an irrigator in O'Neill...or an irrigation well driller in O'Neill. He says, due to fears of 108, more wells are being drilled now. Well drillers are extremely busy drilling new holes where they should not be drilled. (LB) 108 is already creating serious concerns, uncertainty and reaction out in rural Nebraska. (LB) 108 is