

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 142

have excess money in that. And certainly Senator Wehrbein, Senator Stuhr and others have plans to use that money for expanded production down the road. I think it's really breaking trust with farmers to take some of that money and put it to the NRD use at this time. Those of us in rural Nebraska that support our NRDs with property tax money and fees on other...on other issues pertaining to NRDs, we want to be supportive of the NRDs. I'm just not sure that...matter of fact I know taking money from the EPIC Fund is not appropriate. It's not appropriate with agriculture, who has a three-quarter cent checkoff on corn, and a similar checkoff for milo. We've invested a lot of money in that. Now to put that money into the NRDs at this time I think is breaking trust with our farmers at this time. And so, from that standpoint alone, I will vote against a suspension of the germaneness issue.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise to support Senator Beutler in his attempt to bring some attention to the loss of a large amount of revenue to the NRDs. He is attempting, time after time, to raise awareness, to educate us, to give us information on the need for providing support to those NRDs in their effort to be able to address some particularly of the water quality issues that we're facing in the state of Nebraska, be that from a variety of nonpoint sources, including the large animal confinement units that we're attempting to address again in this legislative session. When you attempt and your attempt fails, if you're a persistent person, as Senator Beutler is, you look for another solution. He is making several attempts here to try to bring attention to the fact that over the next two years we're going to be taking \$4 million away from our NRDs. That \$4 million goes to help them in providing programs that directly affect and impact the quality of life in our rural areas and the quality of the water in those rural areas, but it also affects that same water that eventually comes down river and affects all of those of us who reside in the downhill...the downhill, down stream areas of the state. Although Omaha may be in the eastern edge of the state, the water drainage from the Platte River and the Missouri River end up in Omaha. Those wells, for the drinking water for the residents of Omaha, come both out of the Platte River and out of