

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

May 4, 1999

LB 880

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to oppose the Wickersham amendment. The NRDs do important work for us in Nebraska. We depend on them to take care of our water, to make sure that we aren't overfertilizing and contaminating water. And due to the fact of the motor vehicle tax it had an impact upon the NRDs. Now I realize they have room and can raise their levy with the exception of maybe one, but I can tell you in rural Nebraska most of our NRD boards are made up of farmers and they are very tax conscious. And so do we want to stick this burden back on property taxes? Are they the only ones that are supposed to be impacted by LB 1114? I think it is appropriate to vote this amendment down, to let the NRDs have the 1.6 million, which they are going to lose that, if not a little bit more, if we don't do something, and then they have...they have two alternatives; not do the programs that we have asked them to do or to raise property taxes. And either one of those alternatives is not acceptable to me. So that is the reason I will vote against this amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. On Amendment 1609, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, members, I guess all I have is questions, and I'd like to ask Senator Wickersham to try to answer them questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, would you yield?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, I heard a while ago a senator say that year in and year out we've done this, and I don't know what he meant by year in, but have we had these dollars for the NRDs year in and year out or are these new dollars?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: The...Senator, I'm hesitating because I've heard a couple of things that don't quite fit. The NRDs are not going to lose dollars. In fact, that's the reason for