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SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, the amendment changes the date of inception from 2000, December 1st of 2000, to December 1st of 2001, and the reason for that is that the NRCS requested the delay because they're involved with merging with Department of Water Resources and they felt that it would be a little bit difficult for all of this to happen by December of 2000. So the amendment would set it back to 2001.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And is it true that the funding is for two years and then it should be done, is that accurate, or is this on...?

SENATOR DIERKS: That's accurate.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It's accurate.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yeah.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It makes it easier for me to support the bill if it's two years and it's done, you understand.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yep.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Because I do believe carbon sequestration is very critical for Nebraska to do. Iowa is way ahead of us. In fact, I think they're almost done over there and it looks like some real opportunities for Nebraska agriculture and perhaps others to harvest some of the value of carbon in the soils that this may well lead to, and I...as well as encouraging no-till and some other ways. And so I think it's important for Nebraska to move on this. It is a fairly modest amount of money. It happens the next two years, then it's over with. There's no other alternative, really, than the state doing this. There's no way to assess a fee or what have you to do this and I think it's important that we all know what it is, not only for agriculture but for our power companies and others that may well have an interest in the market for the carbon that is sequestered in our soils. So I strongly support Senator Dierks' amendment and also the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. On the Dierks