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FLOOR DEBATE

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few years we'll have a collision, if not this year, between water use by urban use versus water use by rural use, and I wondered if that mechanism is still...this will not affect that...

SENATOR SCHROCK: No.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...in any way whatsoever.

SENATOR SCHROCK: No.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHROCK: This...my understanding is this affects the NRD statutes, not the Department of Natural Resource statutes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Chair recognizes Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would just like to share some testimony from the several NRD managers that was given to the committee, and I think that might help give some background. John Miyoshi, and I am not pronouncing that right, from the Lower Platte North NRD, stated, when the Legislature enacted the Ground Water Management Act, much of the wording was rolled over from the SPA, or the Special Protection Area statutes. As often happens, some of the old did not cookie cut into the new laws. We have operated for years not knowing we were issuing some well construction permits that are not allowed by current statute, even though it is legal for the state to register them. The statutes allow NRDs to permit drilling of wells for domestic, agriculture, manufacturing, or industrial purposes. We are without recourse for individuals who wish to drill wells for dewatering, pollution cleanup, injection, wildlife purposes or recreation. All of these mentioned wells can be legally registered by the state. LB 35 eliminates seven words in the current statutes and corrects this problem. Another manager from the Lower Platte North NRD, a few years ago in their district the city of Fremont needed to