

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

March 11, 2003      LB 619

total. There is going to be a certain amount that comes off of a field, Krebsbach said, but it shouldn't be enough to get into surface water. If you do that, you "over-applied" the field. My question is...and this is a perspective issue...it looks like to me, is we continue to control runoff, which I'm not arguing with that, I'm just making an observation, but in your discussions in your committee over the bills that you've had, it appears to me that we're going to have less and less runoff, which is our goal, so we don't pollute waters, and things like this. It really makes me wonder what the impact is going to be on irrigators that use surface water into the future. If we hold all this water on the land, where it properly should be, are we going to come to the place someday that there will not be water in public reservoirs, if you will, for other purposes, because we will have controlled all this storm water and things like that? Have you had discussions like that in your committee, and wonder where we're headed? Because I've seen this in the no-till areas, that there's less water runoff if we hold it like we should, like that goal is, if that isn't going to be a competing goal with those that want to use surface water even, eventually, for domestic use, or a river, or a commercial or industrial, or city use. So, any comments you'd...I just thought I'd put this on the record. I could talk to you about it privately.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Wehrbein, we've had a lot of discussions on this issue. And I've served on the Governor's Republican River water council. I've had lots of meetings with the Lower Republican NRD. I've talked to a lot of individual farmers. I've talked to irrigation districts. Certainly the soil conservation practices on our ag land have had an effect on the runoff and have had effect on the amount of water available for surface water projects, and if...you have to be blind not to recognize that in southwestern Nebraska. This year there are some surface water projects that won't receive any water. But...and just farming practice in general, no-till, minimum-till have reduced runoff. Pasture ponds, terraces, you name it, have all impacted the amount of water that runs off the land. I would say that the water that does run off the land is less polluted because of that. There's been a lot of discussions on this. And we know it's impacted runoff. That's