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FLOOR DEBATE

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that. Being proactive in addressing the situation, shutting off the water so that we don't have as much, is going to cost everyone something, and it's for the benefit of Omaha and Lincoln that there will still be plenty of water come down this way. If we drain it all out of the Platte, where does Lincoln get their water? And they have needs that are growing all the time. I think it's something that we have to do. I think this bill is very necessary, that we have to pass it this year. I think it's come to the forefront because of the drought, but it's something that should have been done a long time ago. Everyone that testified in the committees said that if we don't have the money to do the research and the monitoring, that the bill really doesn't have much impact. We do need documentation. It's not very popular. There are some irrigation groups that say, well, that water will last forever; we shouldn't do anything; we can just pump and pump and pump. We need to have documentation. If there's going to be some restrictions on pumping, the amount of water that you can use, we need some sound science, documentation of what's happening, that we're not just making some rules for no reason at all.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: I just think that it's very appropriate that we have controls now. And another thing, the impact in our state, much like the coal in Wyoming, if we did not have irrigation in Nebraska, I know there's a lot of gallons, it was mentioned yesterday, a lot of gallons pumped per minute, but it's a natural resource that if we control it right will last for a long time. It benefits our state. I can only imagine what my hometown of Aurora would be like if we did not have irrigation. And the...Senator Schrock mentioned yesterday of all the taxes that are paid because of irrigation systems and the value of the land. I can imagine what our state aid would have to be if we did not have irrigated land and the valuation that we have. In many of the smaller towns out in our area where the biggest share of the land or the valuation is from agriculture land, we don't even...the state aid is...it's nonequalized schools where all the money is generated for our schools from land taxes, much because of irrigation. I think it's something we need to get done. I think it's inappropriate to tax the wells. I think