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LB 962

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of FA1513, Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Jones.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to thank Senator Preister for those comments. And he does represent some of my sentiments on there. Senator Bourne, I'm in my twelfth year in the Legislature, and I've learned one thing--you never say never because if you don't compromise, you don't get anything done. I don't think any of us know how the budget debate is going to turn out, if there's going to be any tax increases or adjustments. I like to call them adjustments, not increases. (Laugh) I don't know what priorities are going to be funded and what aren't. Your comments about the 1 cent on the NRDs, I will say this, if you live east of York, Nebraska, your NRD probably won't implement any of this levy. And I would guess most NRDs would probably implement just only a fraction of the 1 cent. We could do a half a cent if that's what you want to do. But the money has to be for implementation of the Water Task Force issues. They can't do a switch and bait. So I would say the eastern part of the state is not going to be affected by that levy. So I think your characterization that this is a \$9 million or \$14.5 million issue is incorrect. The NRDs in the western part of the state are going to be affected by this; central part of the state, too. But they do need matching funds, because if we do raise some General...if we do raise some funds at the state level, whether it be Environmental Trust or General Funds, it needs to be matched by the NRDs, and that's what we need the funds...the levy authority for. So I hope that wouldn't be a contentious issue. Certainly, I can't envision the Papio NRD levying anything for this issue, because you don't have a problem in the Papio NRD. So I hope that's clear. Once again, I think it's important that we move the bill forward. And I would ask your consideration for the rest of the proposals. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. And that was your third time, Senator. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Question.