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importance that we place on irrigation in this state. About nearly \$4.5 billion of our economy comes from irrigation, and that ripple effect of producing crops, then feeding those crops to our livestock and that industry, and all of...and that is worldwide. Also, the ethanol industry, renewable fuels, we're always looking for ways to have some renewable fuels available to us. So I feel we've been doing...we have been proactive in Nebraska. I would not like, and none of us want, to happen what happened in Texas when actually the aquifers did go dry, because I don't...I mean, I don't know, they probably had situations of drought, no restrictions. We have started down the road and the natural resource districts who regulate ground water are working hard. Everyone is working in a manner to conserve water. Whether it's as fast as we want it, we didn't get in this position overnight, but we are. When we say we pump...or we're putting down new wells, I can just tell you that when we first started farming, we used gravity irrigation. We didn't even have enough pipe to do that type of irrigation. We would pick up our pipe and move it across the field, from one to the other, and move it from field to field, lifting up all of that pipe. Now we have gone to pivots, which conserve water, considerably conserve the amount of water that is needed to produce a crop. So we will be talking about the funding issue later this session. It is very important that we continue to do those scientific studies that are needed, that give us the information of where we are fully appropriated, where we can cut back and where we cannot. So I know that that discussion will continue and I hope that we'll all be open-minded.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Loudon.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I would yield my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.