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FLOOR DEBATE

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and you know what? It's not our problem. It's a municipal problem, and we can wring our hands and we can suggest that maybe we'll give them money to help them along, but it's about time, if it's that big a problem, that municipalities stepped up and took charge. They have authority--my friends on municipalities aren't going to like this--they have the authority now to levy up to 45 cents, can go to 50 cents within local agreements, and by a supermajority can increase that. And a long-term solution is best handled at the local level by each individual municipality, not the state of Nebraska. Not to facilitate...the state shouldn't facilitate it. The state shouldn't direct how monies are spent. This is a local issue; let them do it themselves. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I stand in opposition to the Langemeier amendment. For two sessions now I've sat on the Natural Resources Committee and we've discussed storm water runoff. We talked about fees--wasn't acceptable. We talked about property tax--wasn't acceptable. We finally come to some kind of a compromise, and someone mentioned, is this a deal breaker? Yes, it is, for some of us. And I heard the response about, well, this is a local city issue; it's not our problem. I can say the same thing about irrigation, then. I don't have a well in my yard; it's not my problem. This is a Nebraska problem, brought to us by the federal government. We have to solve the storm water issues; we came up with a good plan. I stand in opposition to this amendment. I do not want to see that plan destroyed. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Senator Wehrbein, Langemeier amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm pretty sure I'm going to oppose Senator Langemeier's amendment, but I'd like to ask Senator Schrock a question or two, if I may.