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LB 1106

will have the support of all Nebraskans. I think it is a major step forward, but more than that it points a new direction in water development and management, soil and water conservation, which I think will stand with us for many, many years. I visited with many people over the course of the last year about this bill and I want to quote an individual who I don't necessarily often quote. But in visiting with a number of senators, the question was raised from time to time about what we need to do differently. And I think that you will note that oftentimes we have seen criticism in the press about the fact that we have not done enough to protect, enhance and conserve our soil and water resources. I want to take off my hat to those people in this body and those who are gone who created the Natural Resource Districts. I will tell you very frankly...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I opposed the creation of the Districts at the time, and I may have been wrong. I think they have done a good job. But I think at this time in the words of Harold Anderson, he said, in a visit with him, if we don't protect the soil and water, we don't have anything left. I think it is time we do that. I think this bill is a step in that direction and I ask your support of it. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I guess as we have discussed all these amendments and the bill we have forgotten just how far we have come. We have forgotten that we are maybe ninety percent or so agreement in some of the basic direction that the bill goes, maybe hesitantly, but nevertheless we do have some agreement. We focused this morning on that where we disagree. I think we have to keep in mind the bigger picture here that, yes, there are concerns. Some of those concerns have been addressed, some have not this morning. But overall I think Senator Schmit and the Public Works Committee have to be commended for trying to draw together diverse interests on water to come up with the legislation