

ability to serve on NRD boards and to vote intelligently for NRD board members, and as we add to their powers, as we add to the financing and the cost of the NRDs, you will see more and more public interest in them and that issue that we raise today and which has been raised time and again over the years will grow in importance and in support from the public and eventually the change will occur and people will look back and say, why didn't it happen sooner. And the reason it hasn't happened sooner is so many of you that are members of the Legislature have a benefit now from the present system. You don't have a situation where the status quo is rubbing you the way that some of us in Lincoln and Omaha have been rubbed, that is to say...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...inadequate representation. We feel the pinch and we understand the concerns and we are trying to react to them. Eventually you will as well as the public becomes more aware of NRDs. The big strike against us on this issue is that most of the public has no idea what an NRD is, let alone how they are elected or how they are represented. If most of the public in this state knew that they didn't have an equal voice in NRDs and knew the power and the ability to tax and issue a financial obligations that NRDs have, I think you'd see a far different situation. But because the public is not informed, because they are not aware of the situation, they are not down here in force asking for that equal representation that you saw in some of the other issues I raised. But that time will come and that day will come and this issue will be resolved in the manner in which this bill proposes whether you like it or not and whether you recognize it or not because right is right and equal representation, one man, one vote, one person, one vote representation is the law of our land and has been for many years in this country and it ought to be maintained in NRDs in Nebraska.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, shall LB 360 be placed on General File notwithstanding the committee action? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to raise the bill.