

important that you note that and not try and read from the bill itself but rather from the committee amendments because they thus are the bill itself. I have circulated, on your desk, a section-by-section summary of the committee amendments which is the bill, and I will try and briefly go through that with you as quickly as possible because this is a very important bill dealing with soil and sediment erosion in the State of Nebraska and corresponding programs that we would implement to help alleviate the problems of soil erosion. As I see the bill it really comes down to three major sections to the bill. The first section really is the creation of a comprehensive state program that would be implemented by the Natural Resource Commission, and also correspondingly the setting of acceptable soil loss limits to the State of Nebraska by each type of soil. It is very important to remember that. The natural resource districts will also be setting their soil loss limits in their respective districts independent, or in cooperation with the Natural Resource Commission. That is really part one of the section...or part one of the bill as I see it. The second important part of the bill is the establishment of a complaint system which would allow the injured party in this particular case to come to the natural resource district to register a complaint, file a complaint with them, and thus trigger the complaint system which would then provide for the natural resource district to investigate the situation and really take a look at it firsthand, figure out whether or not there is a serious problem here that would constitute some action or, as we call it, an order by the natural resource district that would then trigger the funding. That is part three of the bill. The third part as provided in the bill would be a 75-25 cost share program with the injured...or with the farmer who may have a soil loss problem. In not every case, as the bill is written, does it deal specifically with agricultural land. It also deals with construction site problems, with sediment that may cause some problems for sewage systems in the communities. We're working with the construction industry, and specifically Senator Hannibal, to alleviate the problems they have with this bill because there are a number of city ordinances by the municipalities that really try and cover this problem. So it may not be necessary to regulate them again through this bill, LB 474. But as I said, there are three very important functions to the bill, the first being the creation of a comprehensive state program, and the setting of acceptable soil loss limits. The second would be