

for the administration of the groundwater control area. Now we have some comments here that would be used for lawsuits. If there is going to be any lawsuits I am sure that the NRD is going to have to come back to this body for more funds. All this money is for is for the administration of the program. Okay, I would like to call the question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis. What does that mean, you call for the question? You called for the question? Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Kremer will close on his amendment to the DeCamp amendment. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: First of all, Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, in no way will I ever stand at this mike in an attempt to protect Natural Resource Districts that are doing a sorry job and I am sure there are some that are in that category, they are not doing the best job they can. I am not trying to defend them. I know that we have some that are doing an excellent job. What has happened? We have put the Natural Resource Districts right up in the front line where the flak is really flying and of course there is going to be opposition to anything they try to do to resolve some of the real basic problems that this state along with most of the western states are facing today. Nebraska is not unique. I submit to you that it has been recognized by other states that Nebraska probably is a step ahead of the other states in the way we have organized and given authority to those at the local level at their request several years ago, to try to handle this problem. Other states have attempted to deal with the same problem only in different ways. In my opinion, the State of New Mexico is the only state that has really got a handle on what is happening to their water resources due to a shortage. They have given almost unlimited authority to their state engineer. He has the authority. He does have an advisory group and a board but he has almost unlimited authority to draw a line around a certain area and say that you are going to pump no more water. You are going to pump less. You are going to put no wells in but try that in Nebraska to give one man that kind of authority. We have, to the best of our ability and it took two years to do it, given