

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. President, members of the body, I hate to disagree with the good Senator Kremer on this bill and I know he has done a lot of work on the bill and it has a lot of very good points in it but I have to oppose this bill with the increased mill levy now. I have serious reservations about giving the NRDs the extended power that we are giving them in the bill. I see too many NRDs that I do not think are financially accountable now. In my own locality my own NRD which I am paying taxes to is suing my home town on an issue that I think is totally ridiculous for the removal of a water line which would tear up the earth even more than what has happened. Now I know under this situation I am going to pay the bill on a lawsuit from both sides as a taxpayer and I cannot feel that I can vote for more power to the NRD and additional tax levies when such a situation is going on. I got into this and discussed it with the people involved last fall and they just...everything bounced from the state to the local NRD and nobody seemed able to handle this situation. I would like to go further on what has happened in that community. I think they have doubled the cost of any new lakes to the taxpayers. I think the easements are going to come in the entire community twice as hard for many farmers in that area and I think it is going to double their cost, the fact that they have been what the people of the community generally think have taken a very unreasonable position. So at this point I do not feel that I can support a measure and I don't think we should give the additional powers to them, let alone an additional mill levy. We have right now a near tax revolution in many of the counties in this state and I think it is making one of the biggest mistakes to give additional mill levy on the property tax system to the Natural Resource Districts or anyone else involved. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Underneath the South balcony are Mr. and Mrs. Art Walker. He is president of the Scottsbluff County Farm Bureau. Would you please stand so we may say hello to you? Underneath the South balcony. The Chair recognizes Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to ask Senator Kremer a few questions please. I am sure you are concerned about our underground aquifers. If these aquifers are getting into the serious straights, what do we do then?

SENATOR KREMER: If the aquifers are getting in serious straights, what do we do then. Well I would suppose the