

March 18, 1980

LB 739

SENATOR MARESH: No, I have another amendment coming up if this one fails. I have three amendments but the last one is to allow new ones to be formed.

SENATOR SIECK: How many ground water conservation districts do we have in the state at the present time?

SENATOR MARESH: Well there is just two areas. That is Fillmore, Clay, Hamilton, York, Seward Counties and in the western part of the state I can't name the counties but there is actually two areas but this could be expanded. Thayer County has a ground water shortage and I can't see why Thayer County couldn't form a ground water conservation district as well as Fillmore, a neighboring county.

SENATOR SIECK: Okay, Thayer County, that is now in the Upper Blue Natural Resource District. Is it not?

SENATOR MARESH: No, in the Little Blue Natural Resource District.

SENATOR SIECK: It is in the Little Blue. Okay, as the Little Blue Natural Resource District is set up, don't you feel that they will try to accomplish their purpose as far as far as reserving, conserving the ground water?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, but the argument is local control. They want people closer to the problem to administer the program so why not do the same for them like we do for these counties?

SENATOR SIECK: Okay, the real purpose...I think the only issue is in the Upper Blue Natural Resource District in this particular instance. I do feel that these people have done an excellent job. Originally when the NRDs were set up I was opposed to having a ground water district continue on but at the present time as I see the activities of the natural resource districts or the ground water conservancy district within that given area they have done an excellent job in conserving the ground water and educating our people to a better use of the irrigation water. I'm kind of at a loss to say whether I will support your amendment. I do feel local control is important and if carrying this amendment that you are carrying will support the concept of ground water control or conservation, then I will have to support your amendment. So I am kind of at a loss to say how I will vote. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Maresh, do you wish to close?