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LB 1004

fund. Now I do not want to be too critical but it looks to me that it is just a little bit of an attempt to once more strike down the development fund and leave those funds in a position where they cannot be utilized. It will completely immobilize the Natural Resource Districts. I would believe that if you would check the various projects that have been approved, I would doubt very much if any of them have provided 50% local funding. Now you are going to tell me, well, Schmit, you don't want to increase the amount of authority for the local Natural Resource Districts by increasing the property tax they can levy. This is altogether a different area. I think that we need to recognize that there needs to be some limitations upon property taxes that benefits the development fund accrued statewide. It may very well be that the Omaha area, or it could be in the Scottsbluff area, but the benefits will come to all of the citizens of the state and we should give the commission some flexibility and we should allow those districts which are in a position to utilize those funds, the opportunity to do so. I want to repeat again, that when you say you are going to require or encourage 50% participation you have for all practical purposes, if the commission takes your language literally, wiped out the development fund. Now I could look at it from the other point of view and say that maybe the intent language doesn't mean anything because if you go back to LB 596 of a previous year it indicated in there that we are going to place considerably more money in the development fund than is in there this year but it is a prerogative of the Legislature to change its mind. It is not necessarily the prerogative of the agency and so when the agency has language such as this it can become very confining and I would hope that we would adopt the Kremer amendment, give the commission some flexibility and give the local Natural Resource Districts the opportunity to utilize those funds which we have placed at their disposal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, to explain the basis for the committee amendment, the recommendation came about, while it is correct but I believe that the match now is 25-75, up to 75% for state funds. One time it was 90 I believe but then it was changed to 25-75. The reason that we put in the 50 because there were some projects that were...had one project that had been approved that was at the 50% level. I think the discussion in the committee evolved around the fact that there ought to be a need for uniformity and if some projects were only