

Nebraska Farmers so that they may better conserve and use our ground water to the betterment of all of us in the State of Nebraska. I urge you to support the amended version of LB 643. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. I think we. . . .Senator Sieck, I think that we will proceed with the amendments now then if that is agreeable to you. Lets go then with the....what is the next amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, the first one that I have is by Senator Lamb. Senator Lamb's amendment is on page 1649 of the Journal and it will amend the committee amendments. (Read amendment).

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: If I could Mr. Clerk, I would like to. . . .the other amendment was first, I believe. On your desk.

CLERK: Okay, this amendment is on page 1649, Mr. President. (Read amendment).

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, go ahead.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I support the concept of this bill. I believe that the objectives of this bill are what we are striving for. We are striving for a position of moderation, at least that is my position, it is a position where some development will be allowed but would not allow development to run unchecked. We certainly need a water policy which will not only protect the water quality and water quantity, but also allow reasonable development for beneficial use. Now the groundwater management act of 1977 represented a giant step forward in the management of this great resource that we have in the state. The act gave considerable authority to the NRDs in this area and I believe that this was a proper step. I agree with the concept provided in the act that the local boards of directors of the NRDs are in the best position to make the very difficult decisions in regard to water policy in the state, in their local areas. Now the act also provided somewhat of a safeguard against unfortunate accidents on maybe action that was not completely thought out by the boards of the Natural Resources District. This safeguard was a requirement that the NRDs would, before they had very much power in this area, declare a control area and initiate the procedures whereby a control area was created. The control area would be as you, as most of you know, created with the support of the Director of Water Resources. I believe that the control area of the bill is very proper and necessary. Now in my opinion the committee amendments to the