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LB 726

hard work to bring the people that were interested together and have some semblance of agreement what maybe should or could be done. We took two years to get LB 577 passed that set up a program for a control area. We took two years to get LB 375 passed. It took lots of time, lots of exchange of ideas and exchange of opinions and I think it has paid off. Coming out very soon and in fact it is out, the report to the Governor and the Legislature by the Natural Resource Commission on Planning and Review just came out about two weeks ago and it is available, and that has to do with instream flows. We have not yet addressed that. Coming out later on this fall or this summer will be their report on reservoir management. Coming out sometime in the distant will be their report on the Sandhills study itself. Now then, we just passed LB 375, now I think we should go a little bit slow and take our time and study this situation that some people feel is very real and I am sure it is. I would like to go on and say there is considerable disagreement in this area among the ranchers. Many ranchers are saying, yes, I do have a wet meadow but I can improve the production of that wet meadow if I put down a well and irrigate that wet meadow. Now what this bill does in my opinion if the water table lowers because of the use of groundwater and surface water is in there now too, it could virtually stop the development. Maybe some ranchers that want to put down a well can't do it. That is an individual ranch as well as some of the larger operators. I feel strongly that it is time for us to let the dust settle and the smoke clear away on what we have already done, take our time and have a look at what we are trying to do with this bill. I further want to say that I feel strongly there is every...every indication that the irrigation is going to develop in our state. Now that is not all bad. Some say we already have an overproduction of feed grains and so on, but mark you well that when some of the other states south of us run out of water which they are going to, Nebraska is going to have to pick up the slack and we are going to become a food producing state that is going to lead the pack.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you very much. Therefore, I think the development of irrigation is important. We need to be careful. We do not want to hurt anyone if we can help it. I said before that some of the legislation that has been passed is not perfect but here we go again. We have spent much time, a lot of time on discussing the development and the use of water in our state, but I think