

Now what you have to remember is that at the same time that we created the Natural Resource Districts and the reason for, in part, in large part creating the Natural Resource Districts was that we had out there 16 different kinds of assessment districts, irrigation assessment districts, soil conservation assessment districts, water irrigation districts, all different kinds of political subdivisions that the State of Nebraska had created throughout its history to deal with one kind of natural resource problem or another. So in 1972 Senator Kremer, who represented the district that Rod Johnson represents now and who was the dean of the Legislature in terms of water legislation and natural resource legislation, he said this is what we're going to do, going to end all of those multiple districts because we're working against each other and we're not working together and we should do this by geographic area. We should put the Natural Resource Districts in control and they should coordinate everything and that is what we did throughout this state, in Senator Sieck's district, out west, in Senator Baack's district, across the state we eliminated all of those different kinds of districts, all except six. There were six of them in Senator Kremer's district, conservation districts, that are the subject of this bill and Senator Kremer said, we've got some special problems there, we need to extend these for four years or five years. And so at the same time that we wiped out everybody else's districts, those six were left in Senator Kremer's district which is now Senator Johnson's district and they were extended from 1972 to sometime late in 1977. Then they came in and said, well they are continuing to have some kind of special problems so they need extra money and they need the continued existence of the six conservation districts so the Legislature extended it. Then when I was on Public Works Committee in 1981 or two, they came in and said, well let's extend it to 1987 and in my opinion they did not give any evidence before the Public Works Committee that showed they had any particular problems in addition to the problems that everybody else had, but once again the Legislature extended these little six districts when they had wiped out literally hundreds of others across the state. And so now once again history repeats itself and we continue not to deal with the problem and Senator Johnson comes in with a bill to give his district special advantages that no other district in the state has. Every place else in this state, the Natural Resource District is the one and only controlling public entity on natural resources except in