

important. This is the livelihood of everyone within the State of Nebraska. It means you, as urban people, as well as the rural people and we've got a stake in this. We've got to put some money in it. As Senator Schmit said, it won't...

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, let's hold it down. I can hardly hear Senator Sieck and I wish to do so. Thank you. Senator Sieck.

**SENATOR SIECK:** My voice doesn't carry like Senator Withem's. Yes, this is a very important job. Senator Schmit spoke very well on the amount of money that is needed. We've got to put our dollars where we are talking about. Let's put it there. Actually the bill says 5 percent of the money set aside for conservation from the state level will go into this for this purpose. Maybe we should increase that. I hope in the ensuing years, as this program grows, that the Legislature will take a look at it and maybe increase that percentage so that we'll get more of this job done. But at the present time we felt that to initiate this program a 5 percent figure was proper. So I encourage you to advance this bill and on Select File we'll work out some of the problems with Senator Hannibal.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Thank you. Senator Vickers, then Senator Hannibal.

**SENATOR VICKERS:** Mr. Chairman and members, I rise to support the bill. As a member of the Agriculture Committee I was part of the drafting of the amendments. But I do want to raise a few cautions. I think Senator Schmit was exactly right. We will not provide the funds, we historically have not, and we for all practical purposes probably will not in the future, number one. Number two, I do have, and I raise a caution flag, some concern that we don't set up a mechanism where we tie the NRDs hands either. There are instances where it might be appropriate for the NRD to simply educate a little bit, if you will, a landowner within their district as to some practices that could be followed that wouldn't require any funds perhaps. I wouldn't want to put in the statute a mechanism that would preclude that ability of the NRDs. Furthermore, I understand Senator Hannibal has some concerns, as do I, with the issue of construction. But I am willing to work along with Senator Hannibal, Senator Johnson, and others on further refinements