

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'd like to give Senator Scofield a minute or two of my time, if she has a question or so to ask. Would you like to...? Pardon? Yes, why don't you do that. Then...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I probably can't answer the question that fast.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I think we can work this out between now and Select. I had drafted a number of amendments, but I didn't want to toss them in because I hadn't had a chance to talk to you, but I do think there are some things in this bill that we're absolutely obligated to take a look at and I'm going to go ahead and help you advance the bill today, but I hope we can get together between now and then. And perhaps the most critical issue of all here is, if you will recall a little bill we passed a couple of years ago, an educational reform bill, and we said we're going to do all these great things and we haven't done any of them because we haven't been able to fund them and there are a couple of places in this bill that I can see even though there is some taxing authority established here, I think some of the things we're asking NRDs to do, I know they don't have the staff, they don't have the people, they don't have the training. It could become quite an extensive process so I appreciate you letting me make that point and I would urge people to look at this bill very carefully, think about the questions it raises. Potentially this could be a very significant bill, but I think if we fail to address some of those funding questions, we are in great danger of passing a bill that reads beautifully and says some important things but without the necessary financing behind it to back it up. So I thank you for the time, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Scofield. I agree entirely with Senator Scofield and that's one reason why we have an A bill on this bill of \$138,000. The state must put some money into it through the Department of Environmental Control. As I said yesterday on LB 474, we have a tendency to pass bills, but never to put any money behind them and so, therefore, nothing happens. This bill is going to be just as good as we want to make it relative to its ability to serve the people of the State of Nebraska. The Natural Resource Districts do have funding authority and if they