

the part of agriculture, but on the part of the federal government, on the part of municipalities. We are seeing some difficulties that have arisen because of the disposal of waste from federal sights, disposal of waste from the cities and municipalities. We're going to have to work with those problems also. I just want to point out that the NRD does have, under the Groundwater Management Act, authority now to set standards if they choose to do so. The issue of specific standards, I believe, is the one which I find fault with. It gets back to the philosophy of LB 463, introduced by Senator Beutler. That was not acceptable because it was very difficult to establish the specific standards, as Sandy has pointed out, for a specific soil type, a specific area, a specific location. So I'd just like to suggest that Senator Beutler did sign on this bill. He was co-introducer of the bill. So I assume he concurred heartily with this kind of language. I just think that also some of these contaminants, such as nitrates, occur naturally in the water and the soil and we need to be cognizant of that factor. And we have to recognize that to trigger protective measures, when something might occur naturally, could be very detrimental to the entire State of Nebraska. I just hope that you...I understand, and I've visited with Sandy many times about this, and she has a particular concern in her area. And I don't disagree with that concern. But I believe that when you have a bill which has as broad a support as this does, I believe that it is important that we try to keep that support intact and use this bill as a base for activity during the coming year. I'd like to...I'll promise to Senator Scofield here on the floor today the committee will hold initial hearings this summer. We would be willing to come to her area, give her the chance and give her constituents the opportunity to voice their concerns. And I guarantee that we will try to address those concerns, try to meet the legitimate responsibilities of the State of Nebraska in an orderly and, I hope, efficient manner. I would have to reluctantly have to ask you to oppose this amendment. I know that Sandy is serious about it, but I would have to say that I believe it would seriously jeopardize the bill and, therefore, I do not believe we should adopt it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chronister.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I, too, am sympathetic with Senator Scofield's concerns on this issue. But I think we must remember that this issue has been before us for the last two or three years. During that time it has wound its way down a long, tortuous trail and the bill, in its present