

one basis, with groups, more than, I would say, anybody or any other district in the Legislature. And I will tell you we do not always agree with Mr. Jess. We do recognize, though, that he is the person in the state that is someone that we need to work with, we need to stay in communication with, and to let him know how we feel about this issue. And I think the fact that you have brought up the reducing of the funds or eliminating the funds has gotten his attention. I think the Legislature has sent a message that says we really want you to settle this out of court. I think it accomplished your purpose. To completely withdraw the money or even to cut it back, I have some concerns perhaps of what that would do to the entire program, since it has been in place for so very long. So at this point, I am going to oppose your amendment but I do thank you for bringing it before the body and having it aired and talked about.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Wickersham. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, and members, I oppose Senator Schmit's amendment. In fact, I strongly oppose Senator Schmit's amendment. I have wondered, I am not going to go into the value of irrigation in Nebraska. We shouldn't really have to plow that old ground because I know most believe in the value of irrigation in Nebraska, but I think the message we are sending here, and this has been stated over and over again, we cannot overemphasize that. Decided to...we made the effort through the lawsuits several years ago, and I think as a result, Governor Kerrey and Governor Herschler met and there was no agreement. Governor Orr and Governor Sullivan met and there was no agreement. Governor Nelson and Governor Sullivan thus far have met, at least there is a proposal made by Nebraska, there is no reply from Wyoming. Mike Jess, himself, has met with Wyoming representatives over 20 times since 1986. Wyoming proposals are all reviewed by Nebraska irrigators, NRDs, and so forth. They all agree the proposals by Wyoming should be rejected. So it isn't that we are standing alone on this floor, and I really don't understand why we want to send the message that we are not interested in this issue, and that is what I think we will be doing if we reduce expenditures. In reality, we ought to be looking at the future of Nebraska. That is what persuaded me to be involved in this, or at least be interested in it four years ago, five years ago. It really constituted what is going to be the future of irrigation in Nebraska, and it is more than simply the amount of water here, as I understand