

has been going on in Nebraska since 1985 was...this response team was created by then Governor Kerrey and then continued by Governor Kay Orr to respond to potential drought conditions in Nebraska. I won't go into all the details, but we all recognize Nebraska is a heavily agricultural state and as a result heavily dependent on climate even though we irrigate. And originally I called it the drought...it is called drought but I changed it to climate because with the approaching greenhouse effect and the carbon dioxide theory and others I felt that it was maybe more appropriate to call it climate rather than drought. And this simply puts into statute some of the things that have been, being carried on presently even to consider...including today's Governor. It provides for timely data collection of drought information; it establishes criteria for implementing responses by state and federal agencies; it provides assured information flow and the defining of duties of all agencies; maintains a current inventory of state and federal agent responsibilities in responding to drought emergencies and it provides a means for improvement of assessing impacts of drought on agriculture and industry. It also lays out who are a member of this committee. My amendment proposes on the suggestion of the Ag Committee to include a livestock and crop producer, two more additions in addition to this Chairman of the Ag Committee and the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature. I want to call your attention to this. There has been some discussion as to whether legislative members should be a part of the Executive Committee, Advisory Committee in this case. If it is controversial, I will withdraw the amendment. It's not a big thing with me or Senator Rogers, but we felt that it was appropriate for those in this body to be kept apprised of what is ongoing in this area. We are vulnerable again in Nebraska through the nineties based on some historical projections that we will be into a drought, if not a severe drought. I have been impressed over the last few years of the response of this team, making aware of issues that could be done, making the farmers and ranchers and others in Nebraska aware of the statistics and even though we all recognize a drought, it tends to be slow and insidious many times and sometimes an early response can be of great value. One of the issues that I have used as a common response, the questions on this, is the fact of roadside cutting for hay. Sometimes if you wait too long this does not have nearly the value that it would if it could be properly analyzed...properly diagnosed as one of the things that could be done for providing hay for livestock. Cutting of roadsides, if done early and recognized, is proper and if there is no