

the state agency, but require them to go first and use the mechanism...the mechanisms that the farmers have come to know and respect to enforce the pesticide law, whatever that law may evolve into, just as the NRDs and just as the Department of Environmental Quality, under their authorities, would come to the local NRDs. We've done very well in this state, I think, in establishing a relationship of trust between the farm community and generally speaking their NRDs, and they know the NRD people, they work with them. There is a mutual respect there and a relationship. And it seems to me to make sense that if we're going to create another authority to work with that system which we have found to be effectual so far, at least, not uniformly effectual, in my opinion, but, by and large, effectual and I think a very unique and desirable system. So it says that if the standards then that are being set up under FIFRA are not being met, the department may create special ground water quality protection areas or require new action plans in existing protection areas by following the procedures designated in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act for the creation or modification of special ground water quality protection areas by the Department of Environmental Quality. There is a typo there. That's the basic concept. And I hope it's a philosophy of local control that you find acceptable. It is certainly the philosophy of local control that we have heretofore adopted in this state in trying to get our farm community to react to and work with the difficult pesticide and fertilizer regulations that have come down from the federal government in recent years. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I guess I have a question for Senator Beutler because I don't quite understand, unless I'm hearing that you're saying if the local NRDs do not have...have not taken a serious enough approach to this and not created a ground water protection area, then the department, in this case I assume the Department of Ag, will be able to come in and over the perhaps disagreement of the local NRD could create a special ground water protection agency.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, that's exactly right. Right now under the bill, the way it is, there is a vague reference to conferring with the NRDs but the Department of Ag can enforce these provisions completely separate and apart from the NRDs. They can send Department of Agricultural people directly into