

you're not the person who has to pay for it. While I don't want to stand in the way of forward-thinking people in terms of the way our NRDs operate, I'm not convinced, at this point, that there is a need to change to mandate what we already can do. If there are NRDs where there are a problem, and I have an NRD that already receives most of its assessed property valuation from the urban area instead of the rural, I think it's a local control issue. It's not an issue of us making a decision here in Lincoln that affects everyone and then wondering why, when we ask them for taxes to change things, or to regulate quality of water, that they turn away and say no. There's has to be some trust, there has to be some...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...encouragement, if you will, to move to one to one. But a mandate from us, in Lincoln, is not the way to encourage the NRDs to move that way. I do have an NRD that is about one to one, and I have one NRD that is three to one. In fact, the NRD in the state that most people would say is the most forward-thinking, the Central Platte NRD, and they are adamantly opposed to this legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I hesitated to say anything, but Senator Wesely started me, and Senator Beutler started me on the process of looking at this. And I wanted to draw this back just a little bit, because it seems that the discussion was, you can't do this, I mean it isn't fair and then almost hinting it isn't legal to do that. And I want to tell you that that's just not true. And the whole thing, to me, doesn't go on are they acting like a school board or not, it's as, are they acting like what the statute envisioned them to do. What did the statutes envision them to do? And Senator McKenzie has done a very good job of explaining the purpose, the limited purposes of a natural resource district. They don't have general, broad governmental authority. They don't set down the policies that a Legislature does, or a county board that have general government authority. They have very limited purposes, and if you look at what the courts tells you, the courts do not mandate, as has been alluded to, that you've got to have one person, one vote and that's just why it's the most fundamental thing in the world that you've got