NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT - KRVN
March 23, 2011

My name is Marcia Lee of the Central Platte Natural Resources District in Grand Island Nebraska, and this is.. the Natural Resources Report.

Today I'd like to explain why a bill in the Legislature is important to Nebraska. LB229 would direct Environmental Trust dollars to be used for water management programs in the state. Many are concerned that directing fund dollars is inappropriate; however, the intent of the Environmental Trust Act is to conserve, enhance and restore the natural physical and biological environment including ground and surface water.

This said, the bill falls well within the intent of the Act. If the bill passes, the dollars are expected to be used for projects and activities to assist in meeting Nebraska's obligations under the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program- which is one of Nebraska's largest conservation efforts. If Nebraska is unable to participate in this multi-state program due to lack of funding; then additional water, land habitat, and money will be demanded of Nebraskans. And, even worse, Nebraska would lose the ability to leverage federal dollars and dollars contributed by other states for its benefit.

I'm sure you've heard the phrases "water is the issue of the decade" or "water is liquid gold." These statements make it clear that the state should invest its limited dollars in water resources where all Nebraskans will benefit from the investment.

Thank you for listening. This is Marcia Lee, keeping you informed about <u>your</u> natural resources and the way NRDs protect lives, protect property and protect the future.

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