

**Extreme Weather Event or Climate Change Action Plan
Submitted by the Lower Platte South NRD**

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Legislature considered LB283 in the One Hundred Sixth Legislature which provided for a state action plan to address changes in climate, and the bill ran out of the allotted time for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of the Nebraska Legislature advanced LB283 from the committee on a 6-2-1 vote and proposed a committee amendment (AM2481) setting forth Legislative Findings as follows:

- (1) Pests, drought, floods, high winds, and other extreme weather events present serious, diverse, and ongoing issues for Nebraska. Many sectors and resources are impacted by such extreme weather, including agriculture, water, health care, energy generation and usage, ecosystems, forestry, rural and urban communities, transportation, and commerce and industry. Nebraska's life-giving water and soil resources continue to be subject to new stressors and risks;
- (2) Opportunities exist for the people of Nebraska to respond appropriately to these risks, including economic opportunities through development of renewable energy from our abundant wind and solar resources, biofuels, and nuclear power, through reduction of pollutants, through efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels, through strengthened private property rights by having public input on infrastructure and reduced eminent domain use, and through development of new technologies, new agricultural crops and harvesting methods, and new products that match Nebraska's vibrant and changing needs and resources;
- (3) The report Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2014, provides a fundamental basis for understanding the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change for our state;
- (4) The 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll found that sixty-one percent of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that the state should develop a plan to address the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change;
- (5) Appropriate planning is needed to develop strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change on the health and well-being of Nebraskans;
- (6) The state must invest in research and data gathering, planning, education, and coordination of efforts related to mitigation of and adaptation to the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change; and
- (7) An effective plan to meet the challenges of extreme weather events or climate change will enable the state and its communities to take advantage of opportunities resulting from adaptation and mitigation strategies, including attracting new businesses and investment to Nebraska, as well as reducing the potential negative impacts of extreme weather events or climate change; and

WHEREAS, these findings reference a report Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska, which further details very significant implications for Nebraska's (1) water resources, (2) energy supply and use, (3) agriculture, (4) forestry, (5) human health, (6) ecosystems, (7) urban systems, infrastructure, and vulnerability, (8) rural communities, and (9) insurance industry;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts supports legislation for the development of an evidence-based, data-driven, strategic action plan to provide methods for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events or climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NARD will work with the Unicameral and other interested parties in developing the amount of funding required, the source of funding, and the entity that would develop the action plan.