

Supreme Court takes case on occupation tax.

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

On the final day of the 2010 session, Governor Dave Heineman inked a measure that redefines the use of an occupation tax on irrigated land.

The language passed in LB 862 opened up the use of an occupation tax to any natural resources district (NRD) in the state, provided they met certain conditions.

LB 862 passed on Thursday, April 8 by a margin of 40-2 and was forwarded to the governor's desk.

However, the bill sat on his desk until the final day of the session, when he signed it.

"I signed LB 862 into law today to provide the opportunity for the Lower, Middle and Upper Republican River NRDs to sign their updated integrated management plans to preserve the economic well-being of southwest Nebraska," the governor said.

Bill sponsor Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial said the purpose of LB 862 was to insure the occupation tax created in LB 701 in 2007 could survive a constitutional challenge.

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