

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB762

Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 762 would amend Section 46-715 to require the director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources or his or her designee to represent surface water interests in the development of Integrated Management Plans.

It would also require that equal or minimum surface water allocation goals be put into the Integrated Management Plan.

This bill seeks to provide better representation of surface water interests. In addition, it tries to prevent the scenario that happened in 2013 in the Republican River Basin where water was not stored in reservoirs for surface water irrigation, but was released *without* compensation for compliance, while groundwater users were able to pump full allocations with carry-forward water.

LB762 seeks to provide more equitable treatment between surface water and ground water irrigators.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mark Christensen