

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, sir. The way the committee did it, the statute had it that any commercial or industrial user that used more than 3,000 feet would have to get a permit, anyone less than 3,000-acre feet of water would not have to get a permit. As the committee came out with LB 79, they put 3,000-acre feet down to zero, so anyone who pumped...an industrial or commercial pumped 1 gallon of water or transferred it at that point would have to get a permit. And the cost of that was exorbitant, the amount of applications, the applicants would be exorbitant, and for no particular benefit to the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, maybe not to the State of Nebraska, but what about the people out there maybe being denied water that's coming off the property where they live?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Is that a question to me, Senator?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'd be glad to answer that, because it's some of the facts that have been ignored. The people that you're referring to, that you received all the letters, basically we have a study showing, that was done from Indiana State University, who's a very reputable, nationwide institution, and they take all the models that they have, they put in Nebraska's situation in that particular area of Cass County and others into their models, and they would show that if this particular golf course pumped 365 days out of the year, for 10 solid years, that the static water level would drop maybe one foot, they think. And, in essence, when you looked at what they were actually going to do, the actual affect to the water, static water line and the water in that particular area was nonexistent, it did not happen. I mean, that's the fact of the matter.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, let me clarify one thing, Senator, I'm not necessarily dealing entirely with the issue that you were talking about simply because we...and referring to or getting back to Senator Hall's statement earlier that 65 million gallons of water is peanuts, he should come down to my country and find out how much 65 million gallons of water really is, where we have such a limited amount of water that we have to transfer water underground, all around the county in order to serve people. Water is a very precious commodity, particularly when