

countryside, and the dramatic increase, even in the minimal costs, we know that. What we don't know, none of us are informed enough to know what the best alternative is before Congress, or what might be the most likely kinds of changes to make to help us in this situation. And so we didn't get specific. And you can see there are a whole number of alternatives here. But we do want to make the case to Congress to pick out those things that will make this situation more tolerable, give us a little more flexibility to focus on the things that really matter here in Nebraska, and hopefully to cut out some of the bureaucracy that goes along with the current law. That's essentially what this suggestion is all about, and I hope it meets with your approval.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Beutler has covered this very well. I attended the hearing and listened to a lengthy discussion of this by the representative from the Department of Health. And they feel, as I do, that there does need to be some discretion given to the states, given the differences in geophysical attributes, minerals present, the types of chemicals used within the state, so that we can help, to some extent, the financial burden that is potentially to be borne by all our municipalities and public water systems. I would hope that the readdressment of this act in Congress would not follow some of the other readdressments to these types of laws in where, instead of helping, they make them even more stringent and more costly. And I would hope that resolutions, from enough states, of this nature would encourage them at least to maintain a reasonable level, and perhaps even make it more tolerable. I would urge your support on LR 349.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President, members, I'd just like to ask Senator Beutler a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: On this congressional chart that you passed out on the bills, how...the Baucus bill, for example, I'm not all that familiar with all of those, but obviously that was one, the coalition draft of the Baucus bill. Do you have any sense of what may happen in Congress on modifying some of these water