

April 14, 1981

LB 146

SPEAKER MARVEL: The first order of business is shall the House go under Call. Those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 0 nays to go under Call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The House is under Call. All legislators please return to your seats. Record your presence. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Burrows, will you please record your presence. Senator Witala, Senator Koch, Senator Warner, Senator DeCamp, Senator Hefner, Senator Goodrich, Senator Fitzgerald, Senator Wagner, Senator Chambers, Senator Pirsch, Senator Warner, Senator Pirsch, Senator Hefner. Senator Vickers, Senator Warner is on his way and we are still searching for Senator Hefner. Do you want to proceed with the roll call?

SENATOR VICKERS: That will be fine.

SENATOR MARVEL: Okay.

CLERK: Roll call vote. 22 ayes, 15 nays, 7 present and not voting and 3 excused and not voting. (Vote appears on page 1467 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion lost.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further on the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland, do you wish to be recognized on the bill?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would just like to make a couple of brief remarks on the bill. I am pleased to rise in support of LB 146 and I think that if you haven't gathered this by now, it is clearly one of the most significant water bills that we will have the opportunity to debate this session. Now what this bill does is it represents another step in giving the Natural Resource Districts the statutory authority that they need to manage and conserve water. In 1969 in LB 1357 we created 24 regional locally elected Natural Resource Districts. Those newly established political subdivisions were charged with managing and preserving water, which I am sure that we all agree is our most valuable resource. They were organized regionally and they were named after river basins. In 1975 we passed LB 577 the groundwater management act. That act gave the NRDs the authority to establish control areas with the approval of the Director of the Department of Water Resources. Once a control area is established the NRDs can allocate water among land owners, they can require the wells be set so far apart and take other