

of this amendment. I think that it defeats the intent, the purpose, the major thrust of LB 252 as introduced by Senator Beutler, as voted out by committee and as . . . so far withstood I think, less important challenges than this one preceding Thursday. So, I think to think about this as to where the burden of proof should lie, it is in the proper position now in the bill and to completely reverse that and turn that around would not be wise public policy and certainly would change the nature of the bill so much so that I would even think that we have an entirely different piece of legislation than we started with that was heard before the public.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Vickers amendment. As I mentioned the other day and you will note by reading the committee statement, I did not support the bill as it came out of committee because I did not feel that it gave the basin of origin enough protection. I feel very deeply that the basin of origin should have first chance at that water. It doesn't make very much sense to me to be piping or distributing the water elsewhere when there is a basic need for it in the area where it is generated. So Senator Vickers amendment further erodes the rights of the basin of origin. I find that highly unacceptable and I urge the body to reject the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the Vickers amendment. I would like to take the time and repeat what I tried to get you to understand when we debated this last week, I would like to go on and say that I wish all of you could have been present to attend the lecture given by Dr. Weeks with the US GS in Omaha last night at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. He pointed out very clearly that Nebraska really was . . . Nebraska and the seven dwarfs. He meant by that, took into consideration, and his report coincided almost 100% with the high plains study that the EDA is conducting at the present time. According to this report, his analysis of Nebraska at 65% of all of the water in eight states including the states south of us and the two states west of us and South Dakota and North Dakota north of us. Nebraska is a water rich state. However, there are about three areas in Nebraska that are on the other side of the fence. Unless something can be done Nebraska stands to lose about two million acres of presently irrigated land. Those of us that live in those areas are concerned