

John and you are not hurting his people up there and you really are doing a lot more good with it than he could. I think, as I interpret the Vickers amendment, that they go a step further. Maybe a step further than we are ready to go this year. They say, listen, the Director of Water Resources is going to look at the picture from the aspect of what is good for the whole state, I think that is the direction of almost all of the amendments, and say, if Rex wants that water and he can do more good with it than you can John, we are going to run it down to Rex. I just don't think the people of the state, on this water issue, are ready to take that step yet. I think that you are going to have some more litigation here in the next year on this issue of transbasin diversion. I think you are going to have some more legislative developments and I don't know, a year, two years we may move towards the direction of what Senator Vickers is suggesting. But, at this point, I think you are going to kill the bill if you say we are going this far right now. We are going to say Rex, some guy in Lincoln is going to decide whether you can do better good with John's water than he is and he is just going to look at the whole picture from that standpoint and say, if you can do more good he is going to give it to you. So I would urge rejection of the amendment at this time with the understanding that this issue is going to have more litigation and more legislation in upcoming years. All we are doing here is setting the basic guidelines for the first attempts to even play with this transbasin diversion question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the Vickers amendment. I believe the present wording is the kind of wording that we need to protect the basin of origin. It just seems to me that we debated this whole issue last Thursday, forward and backwards, the only people who are in favor of reversing the situation of course are the areas where the water is very deficient. We need to recognize that up in Johnny DeCamp's area the water table is starting to go down. Over in my area the water table is starting to go down. We need to have the wording in this particular bill to give protection to those areas where use is beneficial and then if there is surplus water I would be the last one to stand in the road of moving that water someplace where it can be used. But it seems to me the group who is opposed to this particular bill would do much better to support the dollars that we have been looking for to build dams in this state and to store water