

May 6, 1981

LB 375

will have to oppose this motion to lift the bill from committee onto the floor. I think Senator Beutler has gone through a number of points and I think that it might be helpful to emphasize some of those again and to raise some others. First off, I think it is quite clear the committee is not against the bill. First off, I think you can see by the fact that we named it as a committee priority bill that we were very interested in the fact that this bill be passed this session if at all possible. We recognize its importance and its validity and we were supportive of the concept. The problem was, as we have seen so often on the floor, when a bill comes out of committee without full consensus, without full consideration, it takes so much time on General File, so much time on Select File, and then Final Reading and we have seen in this session what that means in terms of lost legislative days that we felt we wanted to work out this bill to the Nth degree so that we won't have any problems on the floor and could move the bill across. Unfortunately, we couldn't come to a resolution of a number of key issues and feeling that the time pressures were here in this session and so many other bills needed to be discussed, that it was a far better decision to make not to bring the bill out of committee, put it on the floor and have all of you try to discuss it and try to come to some resolution. The feeling was that that job should be done by the committee and we were ready to accept that responsibility. Unfortunately, the time is just not with us at this point to do that job and so we have agreed to in committee to hold the bill, to conduct an interim study, to take the time we need to do the job right and to come back with whatever necessary amendments are needed to the bill to have a bill that we can all live with and agree to and I think prosper by. Unfortunately again, we just are not able to do that this session. We have met several times. We have tried to meet, I would say, at least a half dozen times to sit down specifically on this bill, and one time we spent at least three or four hours going over the bill, and have come to a fairly close consensus on it, and after that the outside interest came in and they didn't like this and they didn't like that, so we revised it. Well, then the outside interest didn't like this and they didn't like that so we revised it again, and this process went through until finally we decided, well, I don't know what they will like and what the different groups and individuals interested in water are going to like and the time isn't there to spend the time to find out. So let's hold the bill and study it over the interim and take the time. Now why is that a step that is necessary

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