

time. There are places in the Nebraska sandhills where the aquifer is very, very thick. They have a tremendous amount of water but that aquifer, the top of it, comes clear to the surface of the ground. That's what causes the various lakes, the wet hay meadows and several small streams in the Nebraska sandhills. Now under the present situation and under the situation in LB 146, and as a matter of fact under the situation of any bill that we have got in this Legislature, either out on the floor or the ones that have been introduced, to my knowledge there is nothing that would address the concern of those people about those lakes, those wet hay meadows in their area. If in fact ground water development develops in an area of the sandhills that has a tremendous amount of thickness of aquifer, the decline would have to be of a considerable amount to be enough to upset anybody when you consider that you might have seven, eight hundred foot of thickness. On the other hand, pollution as 146 is attempting to include, a tremendous amount of pollution would have to be put into this amount of water before there was any detrimental effect. I think the concern of those people or the concern in that area is that even though a small amount of underground water might be used, their lakes might dry up, the wet meadows might disappear, therefore, it seems to me that we put in the language, the language in the statutes, that would allow them to address that concern. Now my philosophy is very simple. My philosophy is that I don't believe that it is possible for us to put anything in the statutes and put it in in a section that is permissive only and can be used by local people, instigated by local people through their Natural Resources District directors that would cause them to overregulate themselves. Now that is my philosophy, pure and simple. I think there are people that do not agree with that philosophy and I understand that but I believe that there are people out there that really and truly are concerned in this area and I think it is incumbent upon us to put the language in the statute that will allow them to address that concern. I suggest that this language would do that. It would allow those people, if they are concerned about the use of surface water in their area as it relates to the underground development, to approach to their Natural Resources District and their Natural Resources District to then ask for a control area and the director could have this criteria to look at. I don't think that is too much to expect and, again, I repeat that I don't believe it is possible for us to put anything in the statutes that would cause those local people to overregulate themselves. So I cannot see this being abused in any way, shape or form although I am sure there are some people that think that it would be. Therefore, I urge this body's adoption of this amendment, Mr. Chairman.