

the situation you are concerned with. We are not going to let you because we are not going to put anything in the statutes that you can, to allow you to." It has been said that this is a dangerous piece of legislation and that it is an important piece of legislation. I will agree to the last part, it is important. I will not agree to the first part that it is dangerous. This is not going to put cement in any irrigation well in the entire State of Nebraska. That is not the intention. It was also mentioned that the intent is to shut down wells downstream, shut down the wells so that somebody can irrigate downstream, that is not the intention either and I don't believe that is the way it will work. This says within the area. It doesn't say fifty miles somewhere else. It says within the area. I will agree, as I said, that this is important and I can understand the concern, I can understand the reason that people are standing up and opposing it. No place in the statutes of the State of Nebraska do we recognize that there is any correlation between underground water and surface water. We don't believe that there even is any such thing as a correlation in the statutes and yet those people that stand out there with the mud on their boots and the dirt under their fingernails in places in the State of Nebraska know darn well there is a correlation. They know that when the aquifer goes down in drier years (interruption)...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...dry up or their lakes dry up and they are concerned, and for us to not put anything in the statutes to give them the ability to handle that concern I think is dangerous on our part and I don't think we are addressing the situation as we should be. It is true that this is a new step but it certainly has been discussed in the Public Works Committee many, many times and people have discussed it with us at the various hearings we have had throughout the State of Nebraska. So I don't consider this to be so radical and so new that it is going to upset everybody. I think the people want it and again I would point out this is permissive only. It is not mandatory in any way, shape or form. If the people want to use it they can but it has to be administered and brought up on the local level by locally elected Natural Resource District officials. Again I would just simply point out I think it is impossible for us to put anything in the statutes to cause local people to overregulate themselves. I would urge the body's adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption