

May 8, 1981

LB 252

that I should be concerned of what is happening with the water in the State of Nebraska. We have a large area there that we are suffering, a depleting groundwater table. I also feel that if we are going to ask for water from another area, that we should be sure that we are making full use of the water within our given area that is flowing out of that area and I think this amendment, and I know this amendment stresses that. It says in #5, "alternate sources of water available for future beneficial uses." Okay, that means the water within that basin and that we should look at that and I have constantly told my people before we can expect any water to come from another basin we have to look at the water in our own basin and I feel that this amendment does address it as such. It also says in 7, "any current beneficial uses of water which would be supplemented by the proposed uses." Okay, we would use our own water first and this water that we are trying to get from another basin, and as you can see by the map it would automatically be the Platte Basin because the Blue River Basin almost lies at the stream bank of the Platte River Basin. It looks, as you look at your map, it only could be a mile or two miles away from the Platte Basin. I know it lies very close and you can see that the groundwater table is dropping even right next to the Blue River Basin. I also notice that in Buffalo County that there is some water dropping in that particular area and we are not...this amendment does not say that we are going to take this water away from you. We feel that this water is necessary in that area and that you should have first priority. There is no question in our mind about this and I feel that that is what this amendment will protect. Now it should be this way and I think there is plans to take care of this. I think the Prairie Bend is in that particular area and it will try to correct some of those areas. I think that is what it should do and I feel this amendment is going to do that. # 10, "any reasonable, foreseeable future beneficial uses of the water". Okay, we are letting you do this and this is a word that I have a lot of difficulty with. Any time you say "reasonable" it just opens up a can of worms but we are willing to accept this. We know that this is the only way we can get anything across so we are willing to accept any reasonable, foreseeable future use of water in your particular area, although I have some real concerns about this but I am willing to accept it. I do feel that this is a good amendment. It protects the water in the total State of Nebraska and I think that we should...

SENATOR CLARK: You have thirty seconds left.

SENATOR SIECK: ...accept this amendment. I heartily endorse this amendment and with this I will close, hoping that the