

CLERK: Mr. President, I have several amendments to section one, request 2505. The first is offered by Senator Vickers. The first Vickers motion would be on page 1. (Read Vickers amendment as found on page 342 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I hardly know how to start on this issue because of the comments that have been made previous. I, of course, have not been able to stand on this floor and say I have irrigated as many years as Senator Kremer or Senator Kahle or that I live in an area where there is an abundant supply of water but I would indicate that water in the area that I live in is very, very valuable, so valuable in fact that the costs alluded to by Senator Schmit a while ago seemed very minimal in certain areas when you are pumping water as far as we have to pump it. Nevertheless as you look at the request 2505 on LB 375, look at the first section. The language in line 11 and 12, says that the Legislature recognizes its duty to define broad policy goals and then it goes ahead to talk about concerning utilization and management of ground water. Now on lines 19 through 23, the sentence that says, "The Legislature determines that the goal shall be to extend ground water reservoir life to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with beneficial use of the ground water and best management practices." Now when it says the goal is to extend the ground water reservoir life to the greatest extent practicable, to me that indicates that there...we might be saying in our broad policy goals that we expect some point in time for the ground water reservoir life to run out. The language that I'm suggesting that we insert in there would make that sentence read and you've all had copies of these amendments. It is an amendment that is, number one, and it is the number one under number one, if you will, the top of the page. It is numbered number one and it is number one on that page. It talks about page one, line twenty. With that amendment the language of that sentence would read, "The Legislature determines that the goal shall be to maintain their productivity of the ground water reservoir indefinitely consistent with beneficial use of the ground water and best management practices." Now when we're talking about broad policy statements that this Legislature is putting in the statutes and is making we're giving directions to the natural resources districts of what we really believe should be done. It seems to me that our broad policy statement should be that we think irrigated agriculture in Nebraska is so important that we expect it to be there, yes, a hundred years from now, a thousand years from now. We don't expect it to run