

there is nothing inconsistent or this would in no way make the bill inoperable if we were to put in a specific year term for which aquifers must last. Now if Senator Schmit's argument is that it is going to make the bill unworkable if we say that aquifers have to last at least 10 years or 30 years or a 100 years, I respectfully disagree. There is plenty of room in this bill for that provision in the state law. I think Senator Schmit's position evidently is clear that he is not even willing to put into law the fact that these aquifers should last 10 years or 30 years. Now I think that that is an unreasonable position. I think it discloses more than... as much as anything else what this bill is really about, and I would ask members of this body to go ahead and support a 100 year aquifer life goal concept. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, did you wish to pursue the...? Okay. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, of course, I oppose the Hoagland amendment. Senator Hoagland has attempted to ridicule the process whereby the bill has reached the present stage. The bill remained in the Public Works Committee for virtually the entire session last time. Numerous amendments were offered to it. Time after time after time attempts at reconciliation were made. Finally in desperation Senator Kremer and myself brought the bill to the floor. Senator Hoagland proposed some sweeping amendments. I read them and gave them all the consideration that was due to them. Absolutely nothing. The amendments, it so happens, and Senator Hoagland is perfectly entitled to his philosophy but his philosophy is 180 degrees opposed from mine. We recognized that. That doesn't say that his is wrong and mine is right or vice versa. The question at issue here is, what do the majority of the people in this Legislature feel should be the direction for this type of legislation in the State of Nebraska? I think that if Senator Hoagland feels he has a legitimate point, if he can get 25 votes, more power to him. But I want to point out to you that this bill has been the result of some of the most intensive attempts at cooperation of any bill that I have addressed in the 13 years I have been in the Legislature, and although I do not have the record of being the great compromiser that some members may have, I worked with almost everyone at various times on controversial and difficult legislation and I would have to say, Senator Hoagland, that it is not the responsibility of the authors of the bill to pursue 47 other individuals to see if they have any amendments to the bill. It has never been my particular position that I try to stir up