

would be free to establish a more restrictive rate than that established by the Legislature, if they desired." So what this amendment would accomplish is it would indicate to the Natural Resource Districts that in making a determination of the aquifer life goal and in implementing management techniques pursuant to that determination, they had to establish a maximum allowable depletion rate of no greater than 5 percent of the saturated thickness of an aquifer over a 5-year period. In other words, they would have to establish a hundred year aquifer life goal. Now I recognize that we talked about this on the floor before. There were a lot of criticisms before as to the amendment that we were then discussing in that it was not workable and it was not technically correct. Now we have had this amendment prepared following the recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission. It is technically correct. It will accomplish that goal. As I indicated before, we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into this study, into these series of studies. This is one of the explicit recommendations made by the commission. It fits hand and glove with the objectives that many of us have for groundwater management. It fits very neatly into the existing language of LB 375, and I would ask the body to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lowell Johnson, Okay, Senator Schmit,

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, it is a little difficult to follow Senator Hoagland's dialogue, but I would just like to say that I oppose the amendment as proposed by Senator Hoagland. Senator Hoagland refers to bits and particles of articles, news articles, letters, comments, all of which refer to a particular point but none of which really say what he is trying to say and that is that they support his amendment. The fact is they do not. I think you need to recognize if you would just read the language of the amendment, identification of the principal aquifers in the area, if any, on which a substantial segment of the district relies or will rely for groundwater supplies. If you would read that, you would think that Senator Hoagland could stand on a hill outside...out west of Omaha and point to the aquifers. The fact is it is a little bit difficult to see beneath the surface of the soil. It is an impossibility to describe what he is attempting to describe here. He has talked about many other areas of his amendment but what he is really talking about is something that cannot be done. Now the portion