

April 6, 1982

LB 708

separate from the overlying surface land that might have very far-reaching impacts on the Natural Resource Districts and on our abilities to implement certain controls on the overuse of this resource. So I would suggest that we do not pass LB 708, that instead we have a...and Senator Nichol I know has introduced a study resolution to the effect that we allow the Public Works Committee of this Legislature or the appropriate committee and I assume it is Public Works, whoever, to study this issue thoroughly and examine the issue of calling water of certain aquifers minerals or the issue of perhaps calling...dealing with the idea of transporting water for certain purposes off of the overlying land, and I would suggest that that is probably the direction that we perhaps should go, that for certain purposes of water it is all right to transfer it off the overlying land and reinject if that seems to be appropriate or whatever other use of the medium could be put to good beneficial use. The beneficial use, the other laws that we have at the present time in dealing with underground water I think should be taken into consideration as we look at this issue. It seems to me that, and I understand from Senator Nichol, that out in that area they would like to develop some of these wells now. I think we do have the mechanisms through the Department of Water Resources right now for them to go ahead and develop some wells and I would rather they would do that without specific new regulations. I would rather they would do that with the regulations we have in place and then let us look at that afterwards over this next interim and deal with it in a reasonable fashion than to pass a bill today, in the next five days, that might have far-reaching impacts into the future as we look at this most precious natural resource we have in the State of Nebraska. So I urge the body's support in indefinite postponement of LB 708 and instead to seriously study this issue and deal with it next session. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would vigorously oppose the kill motion and say about four things, three of which correct hopeless inaccuracies by Senator Vickers, and the other one that deals with the fact that what we are doing is simply setting up a system to develop one major energy resource we have in this state. We import 95 percent of our energy. Anything we can do to develop native energy should be done. Okay, where were the inaccuracies? Senator Vickers would have you believe there is a whole new set of laws, a whole new set of water laws, ownership of water, so on and so forth. Absolutely, totally,