

counterproductive to the development of a good comprehensive water plan in the state. We do need a plan and I don't think LR 27 helps us towards that good comprehensive plan. I think voting for pulling LR 27 from committee would be a disservice to your constituents. Central claims that the recognition of a state water plan will provide FERC with the guidance in resolving the relicensing dispute for Kingsley Dam. FERC does not require a plan for relicensure and has not asked for one. LR 27 would not meet two of three criteria, in my opinion, that would be required to meet FERC's definition of what constitutes a state water plan. Those three criteria are: It has to be a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways; the plan must articulate the standards applied, the data relied upon and the methodology used and, finally, the plan must be filed with the secretary of FERC. They can meet the third obligation. If we call our present laws a state water plan, they can meet number three because then they'll file it with the clerk and in my opinion, that's the only criteria that they can achieve. LR 27...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...could open the door to additional expensive litigation and delay in the settlement that I feel is finally getting close. It could make a negotiated state solution to the relicensing dispute impossible to attain because of further litigation and I feel strongly that the water in Nebraska, as we all do, is one of our or is the most valuable resource we have. We can live longer without food than we can without water. So it's the most important resource, good quality water that we have in the state. And we shouldn't endorse a set of laws as a comprehensive plan which, in turn, deflect and diminish the need to address the shortcomings of our water law and develop a true comprehensive plan. I'd hope you would oppose LR 27. It couldn't be moved from committee and there were only not enough votes to move it from committee...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...but there were four votes to kill it in committee. So I'd urge your opposition. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Before I go to the next speaker I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. First of all, we have two guests of Senator Moore