

poor quality water around your wells and there is not a good flow in the Platte that is providing the hydraulic action towards your wells, if there is a real low flow in that Platte, then that water can draw off of those other poor quality aquifers and can contaminate your groundwater. And that happens not only along the Platte, it happens along most of the rivers in this state. So if you've got a river in your district, who people may have a well close to and the effects of the aquifers and the relationship between an aquifer and a river, you'd better be concerned that we address that in the future. And we don't address it in our law now. So there is a second reason we can't say this is a com...our law is a comprehensive plan. Also, if you are a municipality that draws your water from a well near a river and over a third of it is due from the Platte, you'd better be concerned that your municipalities right now don't have any language addressing their water rights. I'm all for the...my district is definitely dependent on the farm economy and I sympathize with everyone in that situation, but I say, again, those irrigators by not being willing to address a true comprehensive plan could be putting their own water supply in jeopardy and I say, again, you won't be farming on that land if you don't have quality, quality water to drink. There have been studies done that show the relationship and show the potential of improving and maintaining quality groundwater supplies, drinking water supplies in the tri-county area, studies that have been done and show this relationship. Folks, we can't call an apple an orange. We have three or four major water questions to address. If affects every citizen in the state, every citizen in your district, it affects all the irrigators that are very concerned that they are going to be shut out. Senator Lamb said we're not going to shut the cities out. Well, we know we're not going to shut the farmers out either.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The farmer has got rights now. The cities have no rights. We have to strike a balance. Our existing laws do not strike that balance and to call this existing law a plan would weaken any attempts to get a true comprehensive plan in place. I don't oppose relicensing Kingsley. I'm concerned about people and a true comprehensive plan. This is not it, I'd urge you, if you have citizens who draw their drinking water from anywhere along a river system, to oppose this and let's address it truly in the future. Thank you.