

SPEAKER BAACK: We will now proceed to Item 8 on the agenda, the legislative resolution by Senator Elmer.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 68...I'm sorry, LR 27, introduced by Senator Elmer and a number of the members, was originally introduced on February 6. It's found on page 569 of the Journal. The resolution was referred to committee for public hearing. On April 16, Senator Elmer, along with Senators Schrock, Smith, Schmit, Kristensen and Haberman, moved to place the resolution on the floor. That motion was successful. I do have amendments pending, Senator. Would you like to, before you offer it, what's your pleasure?

SENATOR ELMER: Mr. Clerk, please, let's take up the amendment, since it becomes the resolution.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Elmer would move to amend the resolution. The amendments are found on page 1831 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I'm sure you all remember the conversation that we've had here on the floor during the debate on bringing LR 27 to the floor from the Natural Resources Committee. Its basic purpose, of course, is to delineate and explain that the series of laws and resolutions that have evolved in this Legislature, over the years, comprises the water policy that we follow in allocating water rights and various types of those things for the beneficial use of our water in the state. It's been recognized that Nebraska has one of the best sets of law on the books, to protect Nebraska water, of anywhere in the nation. During the debate on LR 27, I acknowledged, and it was pointed out by many of the speakers, that a legislative framework really wasn't a comprehensive plan. And so this...the amendment to LR 27 reflects that that was discussed during the debate on the resolution to bring it to the floor for consideration. And it strikes references to a comprehensive plan, and would recognize the legislation as it becomes law. I have never been comfortable with that original language referring to the water law as a comprehensive plan. The law, as passed, is the legislative framework for water use for beneficial purposes, and does reflect the procedure or plan that the Department of Water Resources must follow in granting water rights, whether instream, or out of stream. I feel this