

below the hydropower plants. And I am very thankful that we have got a spirit of compromise this morning, and I'd just urge you to pass LR 27. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support LR 27 in its amended version. I believe this has been a good compromise that was worked out and I feel that we do need this resolution at this time. Water is a very important resource to Nebraskans and so we should be aware of that and we should try to protect our water supply. There is many uses for the water in Nebraska, municipal, industrial, irrigation, fish and wildlife, I could go on and on. I think we also need to recognize that there has been many studies and many statutes that we have adopted here in Nebraska. I remember 15 years ago when I was elected to this body, Senator Maurice Kremer was Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. I don't believe we called it that at that time, but I went to some of the hearings that he chaired and I was real impressed about what Nebraska had been doing concerning our water supplies and how to protect them, and how to get the most use out of the water that we have. I believe, at that particular time, I found out that there was 1 million acre feet of water flowing into Nebraska but there was also 10 million acre feet flowing out of Nebraska. So, when our forefathers decided to build Kingsley Dam, they certainly had the foresight and knew that we needed to hold some of this water back because, in the spring of the years, we would have floods. In the fall of the year, or during the summer months and fall, there wouldn't be any flow in the Platte River. And so we certainly need to give them credit for doing that. Also, a few years back, the NRDs were created, and I think this was definitely a positive move and a very good move because these NRD districts are doing a terrific job in their particular localities. But I just wanted to encourage you to support this resolution and maybe a bill would have been better, but I think this resolution does what we want it to do now since we've worked and adopted some of the amendments for it. So I would encourage you to support this resolution.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support LR 27 and I would like to talk and acquaint this Legislature just a little bit with what we consider water issues