

prevail on this floor. I am amazed and I am appalled that men and women whom I like and know and respect over the years prefer to remain silent when these issues arise. There isn't any way in the world that you cannot vote for this amendment and do justice for the people of Nebraska. I ask for your support for the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I will now recognize Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Hall and Moore. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, I am not certain how I am going to vote on this amendment, but I was present at a meeting with Senator Schmit and Senator Morrissey in Torrington, Wyoming a couple of years ago when we met with the Wyoming Legislature, or at least members of that Legislature, to discuss the Deer Creek and the inland lakes issue that so affect us, as a state, particularly the Panhandle and Senator Hillman's district and the impact that will have upon that area. And I can recall the one point of that whole conversation rather vividly. They said, Senators, we understand you are going to spend, whatever it was, two or three million dollars on litigation. Whatever you spend, you can expect that we will spend double that, and we have got the coal, we have got the severance tax, in our state, at least, to where we can generate revenue, whatever revenue necessary, to string out the litigation for as long as necessary. So I don't know if in the end we are going to win or lose, but my concern is you simply can't pick up your marbles and go home because the other side doesn't give up. The other side will continue its litigation in court, continue to push its point across, whether we like it or not, in the court structure. But I still think that Senator Schmit started a dialogue with our Natural Resources Committee and their Water Resources Committee to try and, as I have told Senator Hillman, rather than litigate, negotiate. And I think there are points from that meeting at least I attended a couple of years ago that we could agree upon some areas. But, obviously, it is a difficult area. We are talking about water rights, and whenever you get into the issue of individual or state water rights you are bound to get into litigation, I assume, but, nonetheless, I think Senator Schmit has a point here. I am not sure, in my own mind, if this is the best route to take. I will inform the members of the body that we have been in contact, or at least the Natural Resources Committee has been in contact with the Wyoming Legislature to continue our