

January 13, 1992 LB 338

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President, members. The committee amendments do two things, I think, rather minor. The first is it changes the name of the program from the Groundwater Quality Maintenance Fund to the Groundwater Quality Maintenance Cash Fund...adds the word cash. And secondly, it amends the bill so that any water testing or sampling that is done can be done by entities other than the Department of Environmental Control's agency laboratory. Allows for private companies to be used other than just DEC. The way the bill's written now, it appears that the DEC laboratory will be doing all the water testing. We've opened that up so that if there are companies out there that could do the job at a cost effective rate, then the NRDs could use those...those facilities as well. I would move the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Is there anyone who wishes to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Johnson? Closing is waived. We will now vote on the committee amendments to LB 338. All those in favor, please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Johnson, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature. LB 338 is the result of some concerns, I guess, that we have in this state for groundwater quality. There is very little money that is being proposed to be put into a fund to support groundwater quality, and I think the emphasis in this state will continue to center around how we're going to protect and maintain the integrity of our water supply in Nebraska. This fund is to be established to assist the NRDs and the Department of Environmental Control in addressing groundwater quality problems. It asks that the NRDs set up a groundwater quality plan that they would then implement in their various NRD districts, and this fund would help supplement the money that the NRDs would commit to maintain water quality. This program is somewhat like opening a bank account. We are opening an account. We have no money to put in the account,