

SENATOR ROBINSON: Um-huh. What happens if...what happens if we...the bill does not pass?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Then I assume the program remains as it is today, with EPA funding the...or contracting with the department...or the Cooperative Extension Service for the education, and what limited resources that they have in the enforcement arm would continue. The question arises out of this particular pesticide and groundwater strategy that just came out, the state or the states have to develop a groundwater strategy. And I'm not sure how we would develop our strategy if we're not a participant in FIFRA, since FIFRA becomes or is, quite frankly under this plan, basically the foundation of that program.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Am I...I want to make a sta...as I see it, the reason we want this bill is to regulate pesticides and the effect it has on groundwater and so forth in the State of Nebraska. Is that correct?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, sir, that's correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Is that a pretty good summation of the bill?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, if you don't mind, briefly I'd like to answer or to make a comment, not so much answer a question. Under present law that we have in this state today, both from federal and state, your constituents, all the constituents that we serve that live in our towns, our communities, our cities are protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are very stringent standards...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...about the water and what levels of contaminants might be in that water for drinking purposes, in our cities and communities and towns. Really, this bill has more to do with the rural areas of our state, the people that pump right out of the groundwater that probably have no chemical protection systems on their drinking water at all. They're the ones that are probably most at risk, not the cities because they're already protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

SENATOR ROBINSON: You mean there's no...no one goes out and