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really know how it's going to affect the total. And I guess my question to you is, Senator Beutler, how do you see this one piece of legislation impacting what perhaps could be in the future looking at regulating surface water, how it's done, or surface irrigation and how it's done and those kinds of issues that feed underground and look at return flows in the water system that we have in Nebraska that is used over and over and over again?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I will try to answer that question. It's a very good question obviously, but it's also a very broad question and I guess I would say a couple of things. First of all, this bill with the amendments is going to say very little about the question of conjunctive use, about the question of the interrelationship of surface water and groundwater in those two separate legal systems that we have. As it began, it didn't. It got into that question quite a ways. I'm very interested in that question, but today...but when I come at you, I come at you straightforward and I'm coming at you straightforward today and I'm telling you that to the best of my knowledge and to the best we can do it, we are limiting this bill to the issue of conjunctive use only insofar as it has to be involved in the question of protecting these water wells by the vehicle of instream flow. It's not really going to have any effect on...well, I can't say it's not going to have any effect on groundwater users because there is this relationship everywhere and as you know, the relationship differs everywhere. Sometimes groundwater feeds into the Platte, other times the Platte in the area of the Lincoln wells for example, feeds into the groundwater. So each individual situation is going to be looked at case by case under the bill because the municipal water supplier is going to have to go in and make their case to DWR.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I can't give you...I know that is not a very satisfying answer, but I think it's the best answer I can give you along with saying keep in mind that in terms of the total water that is being used in this state for beneficial purposes, that which is being used by municipal well suppliers, whether it be to drink, to flush toilets, to run commercial establishments or industrial establishments within a town is minimal. I mean we're talking 3 or 5 percent. All the rest is being used for irrigation. Irrigation uses incredible amounts of water and so we're just talking, I don't think you can argue that this bill