

have and had in the committee as well is the effect that this bill would have on irrigators where the law is relatively silent when you get to deep well irrigation or ground water irrigation. And the concern obviously is for those irrigators who irrigate along the major tributaries that run through our state that they will be impacted by this law and in an adverse way, and I guess we're trying to address a concern that the municipalities have, but since water law relative to groundwater use is practically silent as to first in line, first in right as with surface water, I guess there is major concerns of the ramifications this bill have. Guess my final question, Senator Beutler, and this is maybe off the point a bit, but I'm curious as to what impact this bill might have upon Lake McConaughy since it is the major water retention project on the Platte River which is, I think, the issue or...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...many of our major cities basically run along the Platte River. Do you envision that that would have an impact upon that project out in central Nebraska?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. First of all, with regard, if I may go back just a moment to its effect upon groundwater users, I think that's a wash, that may be a wash, if that's the right word to use in this situation because certainly there are going to be some groundwater users that are going to benefit from this bill in the sense that once a particular municipality proves a hydrological connection and gets an instream flow right, that water will flow to the wells and any groundwater users in the path will benefit from the bill. So it could be that some groundwater users elsewhere might not benefit, that all depends on the fact situation in a particular area I suppose, but I would guess that...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...a major effect of this bill is going to be the benefit to the groundwater users in particular areas.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Elmer, you're next.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To continue where I had left off before, if this amendment that we're considering of Senator Beutler's does, in fact, become interpreted to be