

irrigator doesn't have to go through these hoops, but a public water supplier does. But if this makes Senator Lamb feel more comfortable with the bill, this is not the main part of this bill by any means and not worthy of long debate. So, I don't wish to contest the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I'd rise to support this amendment for several reasons, most of which in...is due to, if I'm not mistaken, this section that's being amended would apply to any instream application for water rights. And then it seems that out of stream uses are very important to consider as a part of any appropriation of water in the state, since out of state uses are very important economically, and also the portion that re...that refers to uses that would be foregone, or would be accorded junior status, if the appropriation is granted. In other words, if something would be made junior to the new application, through some...some method, I think that that should be considered also. And I believe that retaining this particular portion of the current statute would be wise. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I, too, rise to support the amendment. Don't feel that I'm in the position to make great pronouncements on water law in Nebraska, but for some reason the whole bill makes me just a little bit nervous. It's water, of course, as we all know, is the life blood of Nebraska, not only for domestic uses, which I think all of us believe to be the most important use of water in Nebraska, but it has a significant economic impact also to our state. And to, as Senator Lamb said, come with a change, which is certainly not unusual, on the floor of the body after a sponsor of a bill makes visits with those who have concerns with it and tries to make those necessary corrections, it still makes me a little nervous. I think that this amendment, while it will retain some of the currently existing language, but still perhaps Senator Beutler might address that in some detail, not on my time but his time. But what is the real concern that this bill must be passed this year at this time, and that we might be better apprised by taking it up again next year and spending some time during the interim ensuring that we're doing everything correctly. So, with that, I would support the