

amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Does anyone else wish to address this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam President, members. Let me just expand a bit. Repeatedly I have said that it's not my intent, or do I think the intent of anyone else to deprive cities of...of...of their water supply for legitimate purposes. That is not going to happen we all realize. We don't want it to happen. We would not wish that to happen at all. One of the problems we have, though, here in the appropriation system is that groundwater users are not...are not protected, not protected at all. Surface water users are protected under appropriations that date back into the last century, they are well protected. But since those water rights have been received, there has been great technological advances, as far as irrigation is concerned, from wells. But there is no protection. Now, I recognize the fact that cities need protection of their water supply, and I would not try to eliminate that, or to change that. But when we talk about the integration of surface water with instream water, then we get into the situation of the fact that surface water users have prior rights, first in time, first in right does apply to those people. And that means that they have...they have the authority, they have the rights over deep well irrigators, just because they happen to get into the business earlier. And so I think we should have a system developed whereby the shortage is shared, the shortage should be shared. That has not happened at this point. And when we get into statements like we have on the first page of Senator Beutler's amendment, when it says down there on lines 9 and below, the Legislature acknowledges that an integrated groundwater and surface water management system is needed in order to optimize use of interrelated ground and surface waters. Then we have...then we're...we're getting into a problem, we're getting into a problem where, because the shortage in that kind of language, in my opinion, is not to be shared. The shortage is going to fall on one group, and that's the groundwater irrigators. See, the groundwater irrigators are going to be shut off to protect stream flow for instream uses for cities, and also for prior water rights for surface irrigators. That leaves one segment of the economy unprotected. Now, these two amendments that I have offered are just meager, minor little efforts to protect the groundwater irrigators and