

municipal use of water ahead of agricultural use. And there's a great concern...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...among the public, at least in my area, that that's in fact what this bill does. I'm not sure that that's the case. And I hope as the debate goes on, Senator Beutler or Senator Wickersham, or the other attorneys in the body might be able to shed some light on that particular issue. The one final concern I have is that I'm not aware, and maybe, Senator Beutler, when you have a chance to speak, you could tell us whether there are municipalities in this state that would be affected, other than the Platte River. As the bill is written right now it says, the water of every natural stream within the State of Nebraska is hereby declared subject to appropriation. Does that...I'm assuming that would include Niobrara, the Loup, the Dismal, the Big Blue, the Republican, the Frenchman, and I don't know at many municipalities along those rivers in Nebraska, streams in Nebraska draw their municipal water supply from those rivers or streams, but it appears to me that this bill could open up a rather large segment of our state...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...to appropriation, and that concerns me as well.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Elmer, you're next.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, if...would Senator Beutler yield to a question, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Absolutely.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Beutler, on page 5 of your AM3527, starting on line 10, it says, induced groundwater recharge shall mean the process by which water was drawn from wells, et cetera. Where did that definition, or what was the source of that definition?