

officials and legislators over LB 306, the proposal to redefine the terms of ground and surface water use and the combination of the two. You go on down and it says this is the first time in Nebraska history that a bill has been introduced to recognize the connection between surface water and groundwater and grant legal protection to municipal well fields. As Senator Lamb said earlier, he wasn't sure if there was anyone besides, I'm sure, Senator Beutler and Senator Wickersham who understand the entire amendment and the impact of that. Because of that, and because it is such a major piece of legislation, and coming with an amendment on Select File, I have...I really feel that we should not support the amendment, that this takes much more time and study to understand. And I know, Senator Beutler, with the amount of confusion, and I know that you know that there's been a great deal of confusion. I know you feel that there's been misinformation. But the bottom line is people that contact me do not understand it, and if they didn't understand it before today, with the amendment that was presented today, I know they're going to be more confused. And because of that, I think we owe it to them to back up, work at it, work with this one specifically, and make sure that all of us know exactly what we're doing for the future of water in Nebraska.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler, you're next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr President, members of the Legislature, this is a very hard debate to deal with because I feel like I'm boxing with clouds. Nobody, nobody has made one specific allegation about what this bill does that is specific in nature. Everybody is suspicious, everybody is afraid. This bill has been here for a year and a half, an amendment very similar to the one I just gave you, except the one provision, has been sitting printed in the Journal for several days. We have had all the farm groups in who had anything substantive to say. We have dealt with and accommodated each and every one of their concerns, and this is becoming very frustrating. There is so much misinformation that I feel like there's being some...there's been some disinformation. Now, first of all, this is not the first bill that's ever done...ever talked about conjunctive use. The fact of the matter is that the concept of conjunction use came into this Legislature because irrigators came in here and said we want this thing called incidental groundwater recharge rights, we want this thing called intentional groundwater recharge rights. And if you look at