

been in effect and guarded by our court system for a number of years. And it revolves around the principle that each and every groundwater user has the right to the reasonable use of the water under their land. And they will continue to do so.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They will continue to do so. This bill does not affect groundwater users. Thank you.

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

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, thank you. I have a question of Senator Beutler.

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

SENATOR NELSON: I have a lot of mixed emotions on this bill. I might first explain that, too. And I simply feel sorry for Senator Beutler because of the maybe lack of knowledge, or the lack of some of us have not taken time to understand the bill as well as we should. I'm certainly getting mixed emotions on it. When I tried to check back I was told this was a Kearney and Grand Island bill. That's the first time that I even heard that Grand Island had a problem. I certainly do want to protect that water supply. As you know, we do get our water from the Platte River, so I am going to listen. And I do admire Senator Beutler for trying to answer any concern that we might have. On page 3 of the bill, starting with line 16, it says, interbasin transfer, except any transfers made by a public water supplier, as defined in Section 46-638, associated with instream appropriation and pursuant to permit. Okay, when you take Section 46-638, public water supply is defined, the Director of Water Resources of the State of Nebraska is hereby authorized to grant and administer permits to the public water suppliers to locate, develop, and maintain groundwater supplies through wells or other means, and transport water...Senator Beutler, would you respond to me. Groundwater suppliers then are...and wells are affected, am I not right? You're saying that they're not. Help me out on that, would you, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There are interbasin transfers of surface water, I think we're talking about, Senator.