

Senator Lamb, but he's not here, what percentage of water is used for domestic purposes, including industrial use. But the number was already used by Senator Beutler. But studies show, realistic, honest studies show that 2.4 to 3 percent of all the water used in this state is for domestic-urban purposes, including your small towns and the large towns, less than 3 percent. I want to stand to raise that as an issue, because I thought I heard somebody say people in Omaha, or Lincoln, or somebody are sucking the wells dry. (Laugh.) And they're going to have to go to work, because my gracious, if they want to...they're going to have to draw out another 97 percent of the water out of the wells to make sure that comes true. But that's to point out how out of proportion we can...we can...how out of proportion the numbers are, and how little there is to fear from this kind of legislation. I hate to raise the equity, and unity, and uniformity, and all that issue. But, here again, it's mostly because people don't understand that they fear what may happen. We...I think, as it applies to our greatest natural resource in Nebraska, our water, be concerned for one another and not just for ourselves. And the use in our areas, especially in the cities, in fact, can be much better monitored and controlled than even in some rural areas, I would think. You can do it a number of ways. And if you're an old plumber you know you can put flow control valves on everything that opens up and drains out the water into your sink, or tub, or whatever to conserve water. I know farmers are concerned, ranchers and others who need the irrigation. There are even people who have reaction areas, where maybe a lake is filled because of the presence of an aquifer. I happen to know of one in particular out near Fremont, called Woodcliffe. But on the other hand, please remember as we discuss this, if you're fearful of this kind of legislation at all, that your...the people who live in your communities and your small towns, and the people that live in even the larger areas, like Grand Island, Hastings, Beatrice, or anywhere else, Omaha or Lincoln, are using at the bottom side 2.4 percent of all the water in the state, on the high side 3 percent. I think it's important for us to understand that, and because of that support this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Hillman, you're next.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. I, too, have a question for Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, on page 5