

people, I just cannot believe that at this point we are ready to adopt this ten-page amendment on Select File, say that the issue has been sufficiently studied by water experts when we're doing this sort of thing on the floor. I just don't think it...it makes sense. It's not proper. It should be bracketed so that this Legislature can pass a bill which does protect the cities' water supplies, but does not do some other harmful things which we think are in the bill. I would support the bracket motion.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I, too, rise to support the bracket motion. Having said that, I would like to indicate to you that...that I do recognize the first in right of domestic water systems and I think that goes without saying. Again, to repeat, I have for some reason that I can't put a finger on, a rather uneasy feeling about this particular bill. You know, I remember many years ago in the spring when the Platte River ran wild, and then there were times in the summer, fall in some of the years in the mid-sixties when it basically dried up. We went a long way in the last 40 years toward a more stable supply of water in the State of Nebraska insofar as surface instream flows are concerned and their relationship that is acknowledged I think, maybe not well defined in statute or documented by statistics, of a relationship between the groundwater, instream flow in river valleys and their stream flow...and the stream flow. Nonetheless, I see nothing in this bill, and there may be something in other parts of statute, that indicate before appropriation processes can take place that water conservation measures need to be put in place by the municipal water users. You know, nothing is said about what is more important, whether washing one's car or watering some type of food crop or livestock, which is, in some places in the State of Nebraska, could be an issue. Rather than minimal flows, we find "an amount reasonably necessary". I don't know what that means. Is "an amount reasonably necessary" half-full? How many cubic feet per minute is it? We ran into something last summer relative to our instream flow agreement between the State of Nebraska and the State of Kansas relative to the Big Blue River, the Little Blue River, and the Republican River where, because of the drought basically, the instream flows were reduced at the border site to the extent that, as per the language of the agreement, irrigators, first the instream people without regard to their right because all of the instream rights were used, and then the