

younger farmers last night at a meeting I was at in York who are very concerned about what 306 might do to them, since they farm just in and along the Platte River in Merrick County and just feel very concerned that, as these connections are made, that eventually that their wells are going to be shut off and they're just very concerned about that. I realize through the amendment that we're changing, or at least it's been changed under Senator Beutler's new amendment, so that Senator Wickersham's comment or concerns were covered, but I'm still, again, going back to maybe nothing more than just gut concerns of adding this new definition into law, as to what it will do to other water users besides the public water suppliers, and that's the reason why I'd like to strike this. I don't know if this is an integral part of the bill, but it's certainly a part that gives me probably the most concern of anything in the bill at this point, so I would move the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I'll now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Johnson amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's interesting how this particular provision of the bill came about that Senator Johnson now wants to strike. It came about because of negotiations with the rural interests, with the Farm Bureau, with the Corn Growers and with the Cattlemen Association. They said to me: Look, what is this right? What is this induced groundwater recharge? Let's define it so that we know that we are now going beyond exactly what it is you're telling us you want to do. It was a truth in representation definition. Said: Beutler, put it in writing exactly what you're going to do. And so we did put it in writing and they approved of this particular definition. This particular definition does nothing, does nothing to jeopardize any groundwater well user for the purpose of irrigation. There is no way that they're jeopardized by this definition. All this definition does is make clear to Mike Jess how it is to be interpreted and I presume that that's what everybody wants--some certainty, some definition. When you get certainty, you want it vaguer. When you have it vaguer, you want certainty. But I don't think it's fair for the rural interests to ask for clarity and then turn around and put an amendment on the floor that wants it vaguer, that wants to give the power to Mike Jess to define what induced groundwater recharge is. So I would encourage you to vote against the amendment because I don't think that it helps the bill from