

anybody's point of view.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Horgan. Senator Horgan. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I don't believe we've had sufficient debate on this amendment. Senator Wehrbein. Does anybody else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, Senator Johnson, would you like to close?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Senator Beutler, it sounds like it's just you and I talking here this afternoon, but, you know, Senator Beutler may be correct. This language may have been brought by the Farm Bureau and others. They also helped bring us 1063, which I did not support, so it's not as if we are consistent on all levels as far as gaining my support for particular language. But, nonetheless, this was a concern brought to me by a group of constituents of mine that farm, as I said, along the Platte River in Merrick County who are concerned for their livelihood and I, you know, we seem to lose sight of the fact that if the Platte River, for example, should run short of water, which it typically does in some summers. In a particular area in a stretch between probably Kearney to Columbus it does get dry, in fact some times almost completely dry, and if, in fact, there is going to be a City of Kearney, Grand Island or Columbus, wherever it might be that needs that water flow, there may well be those people who are concerned that their wells may be shut off and their livelihood might be jeopardized, and that's the basic nature of their concern. It's not, again, as Senator Lamb said or several people have said, that no one wants to share the water. It's simply a concern on how this bill might impact my way of life, my livelihood, and whether or not I can grow a certain crop with the uncertainty at some point during the course of an irrigation season a municipality uses its rights to shut the wells off that are placed there. And even though we're talking about after this bill would be passed, there are still, as I said, just basic concerns in the county relative to this bill and how it will impact those producers who depend upon water to produce an income, and I don't blame them for that. In fact, I think they're concerns are justified and that's the reason for the offering of the amendment. I would say to Senator Beutler this is my last attempt to amend the bill and simply would offer the