

needs. And Ron Bishop, out at the Central NRD, and all of the traditional water groups have reviewed this and agree that this is good for everybody. So it allows...basically, what the amendment does is allow within that narrow context of a municipal well field applying for ground water recharge, it allows them to switch priority dates on the wells if certain criteria are met. And those criteria are important and they're set out in lines 15 through 24 on page 1 of the amendment, and you can read them. But...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...it's very important...they are very important. They indicate that the transfers would not increase, these conditions have to pertain, the transfers would not increase the quantity of induced ground water recharge under the original priority date or application. In other words, the cities can't use this to get more water. The amount of water withdrawn from water wells under the original priority date or application would not increase. The quantity of stream flow needed to sustain well field operation under the original priority date would decrease. In other words, more water would be left in the river. The transfer would not impair the rights of other appropriators. That's very important. And lastly, the transfer is in the public interest as we have heretofore defined that in water law. Finally, just to mention the last item on the committee amendments, it's the least important. It's on page 5, it does away with the filing of an affidavit that's required in the abandoning...in the well abandonment process. It's being done away with because it turns out to be just paperwork, since there are other provisions of law that probably adequately assure that...

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...a well driller will correctly report what he's done. And I think that describes the committee amendments for you. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wickersham, on the committee amendments. Waives off. Senator Elmer, your light is next.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Hall. To continue what I was telling the membership relative to our dispute with Kansas, it