

April 6, 1995

LB 871

that has been redundant and it's a good removal. As far as the aquaculture section, that's something that we've been trying to accomplish for a number of years and have agreement on that. The priority dates on the Lincoln well fields, I think for the record I should say what we were told in a hearing that this would accomplish. If I remember correctly, the Lincoln request for a recharge or induced recharge for its well field is somewhere in the neighborhood of 2,600 cubic feet per second. By being able to transfer this priority date, the data we were given in the committee is that they would be able to reduce this...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...request to approximately 1,000 or no more than 1,200 cubic feet per second, which is less than half as much need for the water appropriation as would be previously required, and it seems quite desirable. And I would ask you to adopt the committee amendments to LB 871. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Schrock and Hartnett. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I support this amendment and I appreciate the work done by the...Senator Beutler and Senator Elmer and the members of the committee. I just had a couple questions I wanted to ask and either Senator Elmer or Senator Beutler perhaps can ask. We've had some joint meetings on the issue with Appropriations, especially pertaining to the Republican River Valley. I was wondering two things. One, if the...the NRDs are generally receptive to metering, so I see it says "may" and you emphasized "may".

SENATOR HALL: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, Senator Wehrbein, these...this change was requested by both the Middle and Lower Republican River Basin NRDs. And the main reason we have to do it, it can be done by an NRD at this point, but in order to do so, they have to go through the complicated procedure of setting up a special management area or a protection area in order to be able to legally ask wells to be metered. This allows them to meter them for data gathering purposes without having to go through the mechanism of setting up one of those protection areas.