

April 6, 1995

LB 108, 871

that they need to have in their special management areas when they have been approved by the Department of Water Resources.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you. I, too, will be supporting this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Elmer, your light is next.

SENATOR ELMER: I don't think that we really need to discuss this much farther. But I just wanted to add to follow up on what Senator Hartnett was talking about in his conversation with Senator Beutler. I think there are NRDs, especially in the Platte River system, that may contemplate, at least in portions of their district, discovering what the water use is, especially in areas that are historically declining in their water table levels and in the alluvial plains that may influence surface water use and vice versa. In...in the portions of the bill that concern LB 108, we all recognize that it's a very large step for our state to take to contemplate the regulation of the use of ground water, which, of course, LB 108 does. And in doing this, we have to do the very best we can through all the organizations in the state and as many public meetings as possible educate our ground water users and our surface water users exactly what our intentions are. In a vast array of water users as we have in this state, we all recognize that in order to successfully regulate our water resource we have to have the cooperation of a good majority of those being regulated in order to make it successful. Therefore, we need to spend the time and the effort to do whatever is necessary to explain what we're doing. And, of course, the bottom line in all of this is always to preserve the most water, the cleanest water that we possibly can for both our children and our grandchildren in their future generations. It's our responsibility, it's a state policy that we should have addressed 40 or 50 years ago, and we wouldn't find ourselves in this difficult situation. And I'd ask you to adopt the committee amendments and advance LB 871 as the first small foundation for what we must do next year. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. There are no other lights. Senator Beutler to close, but before we do that, I'd like to introduce guests of Senator Stuhr that are in the north balcony. Twenty-five students, fourth grade students from Seward, and with them is their teacher. Will you please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for joining us