

existing law to be. We neither want to diminish nor to increase what we view as the current property rights of landowners to have water applied to their land, except, of course, as that right might be modified in the...in an adjudication proceeding if the Department of Water Resources chose to bring one. I might note that the other provisions of this bill that are not affected are the bedrock constitutional provisions that it is necessary to apply water to a beneficial use and that we are explicitly indicating that the water, as it's transferred within the districts, must continue to be applied to a beneficial use and it must be applied in the use of good husbandry. I think those are the primary aspects of the committee amendments, which do become the bill. And, again, I would express my appreciation to the members of the Natural Resources Committee for their consideration of this bill and the production of the committee amendments and would urge your adoption of them. If you have any questions about the committee amendments, I will attempt to answer them. If you wish to direct them to me or perhaps to Senator Beutler, I will volunteer Senator Beutler for that purpose as well.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Wehrbein announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature this morning. There are 50 third graders here from Nebraska City, from Hayward Elementary School in Nebraska City. They are in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Beutler, your light is next. Senator Elmer.

**SENATOR ELMER:** Thank you, Madam President, members, of course, the Natural Resources Committee spent considerable time working on LB 99 to do many of the things that Senator Wickersham has so ably described. The ability of an irrigation district to hold some trusts, the water that has been appropriated to be diverted from a surface water stream is...has a very important position in handling the water for the individuals to whom the water is to be delivered. The various irrigation companies, districts, reclamation districts have that unique position in that they have the right to divert the water from the stream for individuals who actually have the water appropriated to particular pieces of land. As time passes, it may become more beneficial for an individual to use their water in a different tract than originally was assigned. And this merely makes those transfers within a district, adding no water to be diverted detracting from...with no diminishment or no additional water to