

resolution, it would send a message not only to our own State Water Department but also to Kansas that we're not willing to negotiate any changes in the compact which we interpret differently than Kansas does and differently perhaps than Colorado does. If we aren't willing to send someone in there to negotiate, then what are we willing to do? What are we willing to do? We are willing perhaps to let a federal judge decide how to interpret the compact and I don't like that alternative. I can tell you that win or lose, you still lose something by going through a five to ten year court battle which water issues are and it's extremely expensive. We'll be bringing in outside counsel, you can bet on it. We'll be hiring experts who are very high priced and this is a first step to see if there is any common ground that we can reach with Kansas. It's the time to do it. Generally, the water levels are at a much higher level than they have been in some of the years past and to me that's the time to negotiate when there seems to be lots of water. When there is no water, that would be a horrible time to start negotiations, so in any event, I think it's timely. I see no horrendous danger in embarking on this journey and I would hope the body would give a strong show of support that we do want to go in and negotiate, try to figure out what this compact means. If it isn't clear, to clarify those areas that need clarification and the process, if there are any changes, it will come back to the Natural Resources Committee and...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...and the full Legislature for consideration and approval or disapproval. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Abboud and Pedersen would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature this morning. There are 34 fourth graders and their teacher here from Holling Heights Elementary in Omaha. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Brown, your light is next.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President and members of the body, I intend to support this resolution for many of the reasons that Senator Bromm just gave. From an Appropriations Committee standpoint, I listened to some of the briefings that we have had, looked at some of the numbers that we have allocated towards ongoing court cases about water and I just believe that