

we absolutely need to deal proactively with this issue and the most important thing that we can do is try to figure out if there are ways that we can negotiate and I believe that it is something that we need to do and I strongly support the resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President and members, I've had a moment here to discuss this with Senator Beutler and a little more as to the philosophy and reasoning of this resolution, and given that, I'm more comfortable with this resolution in that my understanding was that Mike Jess would go forward, could go forward as a representative of the Department of Water Resources but, in fact, when he goes forward he already is the state's representative and that's the point I didn't understand. Apparently this was also on an agenda for the Natural Resources Committee to discuss last week but we didn't get to that part of the agenda, so I think that's caused a little bit of confusion here on the floor and I appreciate the information he has given me and with that, I believe I'll support the resolution and thank you, Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Is there any further discussion on LR 218? Seeing none, Senator Elmer, to close.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I really appreciate everyone's very earnest concern and serious consideration of this matter because it deserves it. The Republican River and its economic viability depends a great deal upon the decision that is made between this controversy between Kansas and Nebraska. We need to be in the strongest possible position we can be. We need to be in the most honest and forthright position we can be. Senator Brown said it very well when she said this could cost a lot of money. We've spent many millions and millions of dollars with our litigation with Wyoming and this litigation with Kansas would be a similar scenario if not more so and we are in a much more vulnerable position than we are in the litigation with Wyoming in my opinion. And I appreciate Senator Bohlke's concern because this is a very serious matter. It is something that will influence the relationships in our water with many of our neighbors indirectly and very directly with Kansas. It is something that must be done, and as Senator Bromm said so well, we can't