

ab initio, meaning from the beginning; it will cease to exist. And it is nothing more than my attempt to level the playing field, to serve notice upon our sister state, and to make a statement that all of this work has been done in good faith with a view toward enhancing, not "detrimenting", relationships and avoiding litigation and saving taxpayer dollars. And, with that, I'd urge your support for the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brashear. You've heard the opening. We have several lights on, and I will go through to see if you want to talk about the Brashear amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, this amendment would be highly destructive to the bill. I believe that the amendment does not perceive, and I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to go on about the reasons for the bill and what it's all about. But I believe that the amendment doesn't perceive nearly the whole purpose of the bill. The bill is about the Kansas lawsuit, but it's not nearly only about the Kansas lawsuit. And to the extent that it's about the Kansas lawsuit, it's about if Kansas doesn't file the lawsuit, and it's about if Kansas does file the lawsuit. There are aspects where this bill is beneficial, regardless of what Kansas does. But let's drop back a minute. I gave you one little handout, and I'm sorry we're not...are not able to both address the amendment and to logically present this to you. I hope you'll look through your pile of exhibits, because if you look through them in order it kind of starts with a summary of the bill, and orients you towards NRDs, and has some background on ground water law, and some background on surface water law, and a real good piece on the interrelation...the hydrology of the interrelationship. But one of the things I wanted to bring to your attention is that this law is designed to deal with conflicts within an NRD, ground water, surface water conflicts within an NRD, it is designed to deal with conflicts between users who are in different NRDs, and it is also designed to deal with conflicts between Nebraska users of one type or another and users in other states. So we need this law, even if Kansas didn't exist to the south of us, for purposes of just basic fairness and equity as between different types of users of water. Beyond that, looking at our relationships with different states, it's not just Kansas we're concerned with, but it's Wyoming, and it's Colorado, principally those three states or