

pressure and thus pulls more of the river water into the sands and gravels and thus into the aquifer. That's the induced. Within our state we have conflicts, and they're old conflicts. Within my own district a surface water irrigation district was constructed in the early fifties, well supplied with water from the Frenchman River. As water pumping and ground water development was being actively pursued and in its heyday, in northeast Colorado and western Nebraska, with no regulation in either state, the water tables were pumped down to the point where they no longer were as...the water table levels were no longer high enough to have the springs flowing into the Frenchman River. That was a source of water for the millions of dollars spent on the surface water irrigation district. As development continued, Colorado put in laws to govern their water use; Nebraska has not. And as water use has continued, aquifers out there have declined...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...very, very deeply. And in the Upper Republican, where this main development has taken place, the Upper Republican NRD, recognizing that within a decade or two that aquifer would no longer support even irrigation, put in controls for best management practices to try to preserve, as long as possible, the aquifer. And these are the kinds of conflicts that this law would allow us to address. The one that I have mentioned is so long in the past, and would take so long to mitigate that it's really no longer practical to litigate. But we want to avoid those types of things. And I hope that that would give Senator Brashear a good, practical reason that we need this law, whether or not another state is threatening litigation. Thank you, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Elmer. On the Brashear amendment, Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President Crosby. It's quiet enough in here, Senator Crosby, that we certainly don't need a gavel. But being a resourceful person, I wasn't able to find the equipment I needed for my presentation right now, and I'm just wondering if you might have a couple of water guns back there that I might be able to borrow as we begin water wars here. (Laughter) I rise in some humor to take some of the seriousness off of what I consider to be a very important piece