

of legislation. I rise to address the amendment that Senator Brashear brought before us, and I do so in some sympathy to Senator Brashear's attempt to address what he sees as threats to the state of Nebraska by the lawsuit. I certainly share that concern and am concerned about what happens in Kansas. However, as Senator Beutler mentioned, this bill is far more than addressing a lawsuit with Kansas. There certainly is other litigation that is out there, and the lawsuits are going to happen or not happen, separate and apart from the legislation we have in 108. It does provide a mechanism to help to mitigate some of that, and therefore, a part of the consequences of it, or the benefits of it, if you will, are to help to deal with the potential of that. So it can help to alleviate or eliminate litigation. But the parts of 108 that are very important are the ones that both Senator Beutler and Senator Elmer talked about. And I think the value of this bill is too great for us to attach an amendment to it that, and it being a well-meaning amendment, could jeopardize the benefits that can be gained from all of the work that's already gone into putting this legislation together through hearing after hearing, after hearing across our state with various groups that are concerned and interested about what happens with water laws and water legislation. This bill is a serious bill. It has lots of implications in terms of settling conflicts between water users. And that isn't just the water users in Nebraska versus the water users in Kansas. It deals with the surface irrigators and the ground water irrigators right here in Nebraska. It deals with local control to be able to help to mitigate those conflicts that arise between our own Nebraska residents and citizens. That is very important. If, as a result of that and the safeguards that are put in 108, we can also help to deal with those lawsuits then that's a very important by-product of the legislation, but it isn't the exclusive reason for the legislation. And to, at this time, threaten those benefits with an amendment that has the potential to complicate the legislation, I think is more than risky at this time. And, although I can appreciate Senator Brashear's efforts here, I would hope that this amendment could be defeated and that we could go on and discuss the merits of the bill itself. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. Fellow senators,