

I'm going to briefly oppose the Brashear amendment. And I understand why Senator Brashear is doing it, and he's making a point which is worth talking about, that's for sure. But it sets the perspective that I want to bring to the body, and that is that this legislation is not just about Kansas. Kansas could call tomorrow and say, we're very, very happy with whatever is happening in the Republican River, we feel you're complying with the compact, you have our blessing to continue to do what you're doing, and I would be here rising to support 108. Now the process that we've gone through in this bill, and I handed out to you a couple of items detailing for you who was on the Governor's Water Council. Governor's Water Council was appointed in 1993, in June, to study the hydrologic relationship between ground water, surface water, and make specific legislative recommendations, if any, regarding how ground water and surface water in the state might be more efficiently and effectively managed. Now that body of the Water Council, which I have given you a handout as to the members of the Water Council, worked as diligently as any ad hoc body I've ever been privileged to be a part of, for two and a half years. And the members, that are listed on this handout that I hope you'll take the time to look at, includes a broad representation of interests: farmers who are absolutely on the front line with center pivot irrigation and other types of irrigation, NRD folks, people interested in the environment, such as the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, League of Municipalities, a professor of law, a few senators, Federal Bureau of Reclamation was represented. This body worked very hard, this Water Council, to address this issue. And had there only been one reason, and that being the potential threat of a lawsuit with Kansas, they would not have drafted the legislation or suggested that it be drafted in the form that it's in, I can assure you of that. The other handout that I want to bring to your attention are the tremendous number of meetings and hearings held in conjunction with drafting LB 108 in the public hearings. This handout that I have on your desk shows that the Water Council, beginning in June of '93, held no less than 14 meetings, all of which were open to the public, and all of which were very well attended, and all of which were well reported by the newspapers as to the discussion and the action that was taken. The Natural Resources Committee, of which I am a member, held no less than 14 hearings in 10 towns across Nebraska. And I wasn't able to attend each and every one of them, but I attended most all of them, and they were all worth the time and the effort. And it