

March 13, 1996

LB 108

thank you, Senator Bohlke. I asked Senator Bohlke to share any time she had with me so that I could assure my colleagues of several things that maybe I was not clear about, and I apologize. I am inclined toward LB 108. I do understand that Wyoming and Colorado and Kansas adopted water policy before we did. I do understand that we need water policy. I do understand also that many, many people have worked very hard on this legislation in order to bring us to an appropriate point. I do not think that LB 108 is only about the Kansas litigation. But we have had distributed on the floor of this Legislature exhibits moving us in support of LB 108,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...documents from Kansas indicating this constant, continuing threat of litigation. What we would save by avoiding litigation is not insignificant, if it all reflects what we have done in the Wyoming-Nebraska litigation, \$10 million in 10 years, more than \$10 million in 10 years. Now we are talking about adopting a water policy that Kansas ought to have an interest in our adopting, it ought to be glad that we are being responsive, and yet after we do that which they should applaud us for doing they may well sue us, and, yes, I understand ask for money damages in addition. I'm trying to improve.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam President. I would relinquish my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Let me back up a little bit. I think that I can explain another part of the bill to you that's very important and also be relevant to speaking to this particular amendment, because there is another huge part of the bill that has not been mentioned at all. There are really three parts to the bill. One is the empowerment of the NRD to act in these kinds of cases, to declare these management areas.