

possibly lose, who knows, Senator Dierks, I don't know, then with no law in place we have the water master, the river master, the federal judges dictating who gets to pump water and who doesn't, not our local citizens. With this mechanism in place, if it's not strong enough, future Legislatures could address that, if needed. If it's too cumbersome, future Legislatures can address that. This is a change and an additional power for our NRDs to help them manage an irreplaceable resource if it's not used properly. Our children and our grandchildren will benefit by having the resource available for their use in adequate quantities and adequate quality. It's the future generations of Nebraska that we're talking about, not a threatened lawsuit from Kansas. And I would ask you to reject Senator Brashear's well-intended but misguided amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this has been discussed sufficiently. I had several things that I wanted to say and I think I may hold off getting into a formal discussion. But I've got copies and have been looking at Colorado's law. And one thing that I know Senator Bohlke had brought up is that, from a letter that she had received, that it may not do any good. And that is possibly the case. But if we don't have anything in place, we don't have anything to work with at all. So I think this is good policy, it is something...I am a little frustrated at the length and the time frames that it takes. But it's going to be something that we can work on in the future. So I stand to oppose the Brashear amendment and would hope that all of you would. I would like to relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, you have three and a half minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, if I could address a question to Senator Brashear, I would like to.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear, if you would respond.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, between General File and Select File, Senator Wickersham, for one, I know has a couple of very serious