

district. Each one of the individual farmers has his share of that appropriation. So the appropriators we talk about in LB 108 are the people that are the boards of directors of the irrigation districts and represent the irrigation...surface irrigators as their appropriator, and the things that you're talking about is making the bill cumbersome, are unnecessary, and I would oppose this amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Did you yield time or is that your...the conclusion? Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I don't know if I qualify as an irrigator. I do turn on my hose to water my garden. Water comes up out of the ground and I assume that would be a ground water irrigator, at least from my urban perspective. I am certainly not an expert on the subject and make no claims to be. I have been a part of the process that we have gone through, though, and from my perspective as someone who has made it a point to include public hearings, made it a point to include the public at every level of the process that I have been able to do it, I have done so, and perhaps in Urban Affairs, it's most noticeable and it's almost a joke in the committee talking about the Freister amendment that would be something that would public input or a public hearing to some piece of legislation that we have before us. The legislation that I introduced to put on-line electronically all of our legislative information was another part of that process of including the public in this process that we have right here in our Legislature. That is of concern to me. I think that that concern has been a part of 108, as we've gone through officially over three years now of public hearings in all parts of the state where people, who had concerns, and legitimately so; some people don't get the word and don't know even though there is a hearing in their area. However, after the hearing is held they get the word, and they are drawn into the process. By going through that process for three years, more and more people are drawn in. That was more a part of the official process out across greater Nebraska. Additional hearings in Lincoln were a part of that process, and more people were able to get information and to have input. I supported and continue to support that public input and think that it has been done here, and has been done even after amendments were drawn up, because once some of those concerns were addressed and put into