

March 21, 1996

LB 108

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, do you have the Journal page that amendment is on?

CLERK: Journal page 1243, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, AM3743 is a fairly straight up, simple amendment to follow. It simply strikes Section 55 and the remaining sections of the committee amendments that we're talking about. That would strike the authority that is granted in LB 108 to Department of Water Resources. It would strike the part of the amendment that would provide for three more FTEs over the Department of Water Resources. It would strike that part that would call for a \$100,000 fiscal note. But, it would leave in place, conjunctive water use and it would leave in place the in-stream flows prohibition that's in 108 and it would leave in place the consolidation of these control and management areas into one unit which I think the Governor's Water Council did well in providing for in 108. It also keeps in place the grandfathering clause that was requested by a number of the farming industry communities. So, what we are doing, actually, is reducing a great deal of 108, taking a lot of the bureaucracy out of it, keeping the in-stream flow protection for surface water users and ground water users. It does provide for conjunctive water use or hydrologically connected water and it does still provide for the grandfathering that was brought in by the farm groups. With that, I would invite your comments and your questions and ask that the body take serious consideration of this amendment because I think it does what the Governor asked for and I think that it provides the impetus that 108 really tried to provide. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bohlke, followed by Senator Coordsen and Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BOHLKE: On the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: On the bill, not on the amendments?

SENATOR BOHLKE: On the amendment, not on the Dierks amendment.