

memorandum of agreement with Colorado and Wyoming which is being, you know, worked on right now. And if that would result in something the state needed to comply with to fulfill that agreement, that's what this provision, as I recall, referred to. I know of no other, at this point, other agreements.

SENATOR DIERKS: So I guess it would be your opinion that we're kind of enacting legislation ahead of the curve, is that the way you'd put it to the...

SENATOR BROMM: Well, well, you know, Jim Cook, who's leading the negotiations on that, indicated, in the Water Council meetings, that to have this kind of language would certainly be helpful in good faith negotiations with Wyoming and Colorado, because it would show them...you know, their argument always is, well, why should we deliver you water on the Platte River because you don't have any way to regulate the use of it once we get it in the river anyway. So this takes away that argument a little bit.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, don't we have a compact with those states?

SENATOR BROMM: I believe...yes, I believe there is also a compact.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, then the question of why they should deliver the water to us is somewhat moot. If there's a compact we have with them, they have to honor the compact. Is that not right?

SENATOR BROMM: I believe you're right, except that I think there's another question involved now that the compact maybe doesn't cover, and that is who should supply the water to the critical habitat that the federal government says we need to maintain in the Platte River? I think Nebraska feels that some of that input should come from Wyoming and Colorado and that Nebraska shouldn't have to supply all that water. And that's part of what this memorandum agreement might deal with.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.