

Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 10 ayes, 10 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Debate does not cease at this point. Senator Hudkins, you're recognized, followed by Senator Jones, Fisher, Dierks, and Coordsen.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm going back to the map that Senator Schrock had passed us. And again I'll have you note that the date is prior to development, fall 1992. I have a map that is from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Geological Survey, it's a little more current and it shows a little more information, a little bit different than we have on the map that we were passed out. This shows a water change in the High Plains Aquifer, which includes Nebraska, parts of Kansas, and then farther south into Texas, from the years 1980 to the years 1994. Now, obviously, you don't have a copy of this map, and we couldn't get it printed fast enough, and it wouldn't have been in color anyway so it wouldn't have really showed you a lot. The map that...the big map that you have shows a lot of reds and oranges and yellows. And I find it very interesting to see the map, dated 1994, yes, in Nebraska there are some declines down in the extreme southwest parts of the state, Perkins, Chase, and Dundy Counties. But where on the big map they show there are declines of more than 30 feet, and others 25 to 30, 20 to 25 feet, I find it very interesting to see on this map that these declines show 5 to 10 feet, and in the worst case 10 to 20 feet. And then along the eastern end of the state there are no yellow and orange areas on the big map, and on this one it shows increases in water levels of, in one small area, more than 40 feet, in a quite large area of 10 to 20 feet, and in surrounding areas many of them rises of 5 to 10 feet. And then if we go to yet a third map, this shows the water level change in the High Plains Aquifer, 1993 to 1994. And there is very, very few areas in the state of Nebraska that show declines. There is about, I'm going to guess, an eighth of Cherry County shows a decline of 1 to 3 feet. There is, again in the southwest, in the Panhandle, declines of 1 to 3 feet, one area of 3 to 5 feet. You follow the Platte River, you get to about looks like Merrick and Polk Counties there are declines, but they're only 1 to 3 feet. And then you look at the rises in water level. The state is