

Senator Fisher, followed by Senators Coordsen, Schimek, Crosby, Beutler, Schrock, and Elmer. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, these are very serious issues. I think it's well that we have this debate at this time. As I look over the map, whichever one I chose, I find that I have many interests throughout the state and in many of these areas with water. You know, water is vital to our economic agriculture economy. And I think it's important that we work very diligently to come up with a solution. I would like to think that Senator Dierks has a good amendment, it does merit serious consideration. It's worked in the past. But I think as we look towards the future and look at problems that are on the horizon from other states, even within our states on water disputes, we do have to have some form of master or some form of regulations that can control these inter-NRD disputes. I've been in contact with my NRD in Grand Island, and they, of course, want to see the bill as it was written. But we all know that many, many times debate brings up some very important issues and amendments must be added to the original bill. But it disturbs me somewhat that we cannot arrive at some form of an agreement on this. And I think it behooves us to work towards that, take that sight and that goal. At this particular time I'm going to oppose the Dierks amendment, however, it is with some deep concerns that I do that. But I think we must forge ahead. I think the committee should be commended for all the time and effort they've put into it, and will look forward to listening to the continued debate. And again, my more input here is to search and seek for that right solution, I know we never always able to come up with that at times, but we can be flexible, we can work on it. And I would like to see us move a little bit more quickly, but I think the debate is important. Thank you very much.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Fisher. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Looking at the map that Senator Schrock handed out, and in the bottom of the map, along the...toward the right half you'll find Thayer and Jefferson County. Some of you have been on our farm, but it lies right in an area that's awfully white in this map. In the paper, couple of weeks ago, in our area we've had the driest five months, or ties the driest five-month