

I think this is a bill for accountability. I think it averts the problem of putting property taxation and the reaction to the mood in Nebraska today, it averts putting that in the constitution, which I think is wrong. It sets it in statute. We can come back. This forces the political subdivisions to try to address the problems through efficiencies and consolidations. I believe that this is...perhaps this is the best choice. One of the statements I made the other night, I was talking to a group of voters, they said, you know, what are the solutions? And we talked about...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HILGERT: ..this for about an hour and we came up with that there are no solutions to this problem but there's only choices. This bill allows people to make that choice. Are they willing to pay for the government? Are they willing to pay for the services? So I would encourage the body to reject the bracket motion. This is my motivation for supporting LB 1114 and I am always encouraged when I hear that redemption is still possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens on the bracket motion.

SENATOR EERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Hilgert, I do love it when you get involved, number one, because it shows a fieriness and a concern that is refreshing and you're a articulate young man, and I can say young man because the Clerk keeps reminding me how much older I'm getting and so I suppose I need to talk in those terms. And you do bring a very optimistic flavor to the floor, which is going to be very...is very beneficial and you will continue to have a major impact as you get more involved, and I think it's super. Having said those nice things, I have to take issue. One of the things Senator Hilgert did talk about in all sincerity in his part was that we...if we don't do some of these things it will be done by the petition process and the constitution. I just want to remind people, one of the arguments that people used on the conjunctive water use bill is that we don't care if Kansas sues us or not, what is the best policy? And in my position, at least, I don't care if the Jaksha petition gets on the ballot, or if the Cattlemen, NSEA, Farm Bureau petition gets on the ballot, or someone else gets on