

District opposing it. So, a lot of them are opposing it in my district, so it's sure hard for me to support the bill, but I think that Senator Dierks has brought out an issue that's been on my mind ever since we started with this that if there is a shortage, I think they should share and share alike, and I probably got one of the...one of the oldest water rights in the state, myself, on my ranch, but I do believe, if there is a shortage, that they should share and share alike. So, I think that I'll support Senator Dierks' amendment to it, because I think it's an important issue and probably right to the guts of everything. So, in place of maybe causing a lot of litigation, maybe it'll keep from a lot of it happening. So, with that, I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Dierks, if he'd wish it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Dierks, you have a little less than four minutes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Jones. Madam President, and members of the Legislature, I passed around a couple of handouts this morning, one from the Guide Rock State Bank and one from the Nebraska Bankers Association Update. I hope you will take a look at that because it does show you that things are not all that well with 108. These bankers have finally come to the conclusion that the ground water irrigation controls could affect the property value of that property, and that would also affect the collateral...could adjust the collateral that they use for making their loans. That's no small issue in Nebraska. Eighty-five percent of those people that are irrigating are ground water irrigators. If the bankers are going to have to reduce the amount of collateral that they can call in on these ground water-irrigated farms, everybody's in trouble. We got enough troubles already, but this is just adding to it. You see, they're saying reduced crop bushels translates into less revenue, less grain storage, trucking, handling. Everything that is involved with the irrigation process could have a detrimental effect on economic development in Nebraska. This legislation is really very, very onerous. It will...the bankers have come to that conclusion, I think you'll notice, and they most...just kind of recently have come to this. They have...they're saying, from a lending standpoint, the uncertainty of water supply means reduced loan values. I don't know how you can put any plainer than that. It certainly would do that in my area. We have a tremendous difficulty in rural Nebraska today. I...we haven't talked about that a lot this