

table and the fact that if they did not curtail pumping, within 10 to 15 years there would not be any...

SENATOR DIERKS: We understand all that, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: ..irrigation done.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'm trying to figure out, they've done that already, what more can we provide them to make it any...? They've done everything that's been asked of them. Why do we have to add anything else to the statutes? Why do we have to do this 108 which provides all the fears that the ground water irrigators can dream up? I mean they're just terribly scared of this piece of legislation and I haven't heard anybody who's promoting the legislation to admit that.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: They seem to think that the ground water irrigators are a bunch of dummies that don't have any reason to be concerned, and that's not so. I wouldn't be standing here talking about this bill for eight hours if it wasn't so.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'm trying to represent the people in my district and we're trying to figure out why you think...

SENATOR ELMER: There are two classes of ground water irrigators that are potentially going to be regulated. One class already can be and that is in the case where ground water users are withdrawing water from an aquifer whose levels are declining and continue to decline.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay.

SENATOR ELMER: The second class of irrigators are those that are in the alluvial plain of a fully appropriated river in the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR DIERKS: But, Senator Elmer, both of those classes...