

Wickersham described to you, where it's share and share alike in times of shortage. And he who is the high-most does not get cut off entirely as in the first in time, first in right system. And so that, that too, has been around long enough now, amongst enough people, and seems to be a satisfactory way of doing things in large ground water communities around the state. And so these two principles have some into conflict. And what we've...what we said in this bill is that we're going to rely upon...rely upon the NRDs to...to make a decision with respect to these conflicting interests, to make a decision that is most suitable, that is most in the public interest, in their particular area. And some hard decisions may well get made from time to time, may have to be made from time to time. But this concept I expect to be discussed for a number of years. I really do. I think it will be back next year. I think Senator Wickersham makes some good points. I think that now that the focus is off conjunctive use and all its multiple facets that there will be some focus in coming years on particular concepts involved in conjunctive use and the good experience of, of members of the Farm Bureau and Farmers Union and Nebraskans First and all those folks out there who deal with this on a day, day-to-day basis will be...will be brought to bear on specific concepts and we'll refine it and we'll make it better, just as we've made the Ground Water Management Act better. And grandfathering will be first in line for treatment, I'm sure. We may not end up in a much different position given the politics of the matter, but it's in line for a much more in-depth discussion. With that, I think I'll stop for now. Senator Elmer, did you want the rest of my time? Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to put a little bit of the reasons for the differences in the way the ground water has been historically shared and surface water has been historically shared. First, surface water is the result of runoff of natural precipitation that falls annually. And the amount of rainfall or snowfall that we receive runs across the surface, down our streams, and it's gone into the oceans in a single year. The next year may be completely dry and we have no water. So the ability to use that water in some sequence is much more reasonable. In the case of ground water, ground water in reservoirs or aquifers is accumulated over centuries of time, is not subject to annual rainfall variations, only in minute