

had just a little earlier on the question of grandfathering has a deep, deep meaning to many, many people. And it's a conflicting one. And that in having a registration date or an appropriation date as a basis for establishing a management area would be inappropriate in my view for the reasons I've stated; that all of us, whether we're surface water users or ground water users, in all practical...for all practical purposes, and in every instance that we've had shortages it has been share and share alike and not, well, I have the oldest right, therefore I get it all and you don't get anything. That's not happened in this state, though it could have because nobody wants to see his neighbor lose his crop while my own flourishes. That's not within us. And I don't believe that any NRD, when they sit down, even with the ability to treat a well that's drilled ten years ago differently than one that's drilled next year, will do so because it's inappropriate to say, my neighbor can't share in this resource that's beneath both of our lands equally. And if we start to develop too many wells to support that aquifer, even if there is not surface water involved, the NRDs have the responsibility to see that that aquifer is well managed, either with good management practices or restriction to new well drilling. That's already in statute. I just hope...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...that all of us can work together for the best water resource that we can have for our children and grandchildren and that there'll be plenty of it and we can drink every bit of it without fear.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, this hopefully is the amendment that settles the matter insofar as matters in a democracy are ever settled, settle the matter for this year. This bill has been affected by the democratic process from the very beginning. It has been affected by numberless individuals. I can't tell you how many different individuals' thoughts appear in different places in this legislation by virtue of their participation in the process at one point in time or another. This last amendment presents, once again, another phase of the democratic process and additional input from those with experience in the area. The democratic process is very rough from time to time, but you