

the information of how wells affects the stream and how close they are and how much they would move towards it. And I've been hearing from a lot of well drillers in my area now saying there's a push out there right now to get a lot of new wells drilled before this bill takes effect. And so that really kind of concerns me, too, because it's concerning them, because I'd hate to.... And if you shut a well off along a stream, how long does it take before you actually raise the water in that stream, especially when you're only pumping 60 days a year? And that concerns me quite a bit. Nebraska is one of the three biggest ground water irrigators in the country, and the other two don't have conjunctive use water laws in their state. Eighty-five percent of our irrigation is from ground water pumping, and only 15 percent from service water, so we're protecting the 15 percent with the 85 percent. And I've had two phone calls from my whole district through all of this that wanted me to support it, and they was from the Audubon Society. And I did not get any phone calls from my district on...from Farm Bureau, Cattlemen, or any groups like that, but I did get a lot of them from the surface irrigators, especially the water districts, Ainsworth Water District, and several of them up there that did not want me to support it. So I still can't support LB 108. I think it will pass and I don't know what we're going to be down the road. But are we putting something in the package of our ground water and our surface water in this state and just handing it to the federal government? I guess that kind of concerns me. I think we should really be thinking about that and watch this legislation as it goes through the next few years and see what else happens with it. That's kind of concerning me, too. So, with that, I'll close. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I'm sure that almost to a person you have made up your mind on this matter at this point in time. Just to say a couple of things, first of all, with respect to our relationship to Kansas and our relationship to other states, this bill doesn't make it easier for Kansas and doesn't make it easier for any other state with respect to their claims against Nebraska. What this bill does is allows Nebraska to intelligently counter the aggressiveness of other states, that's what this bill allows and does. It has, like any major, historic piece of legislation, it has its opposition. There are those who fear what it may bring,