

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 1999 LB 822

because that was, in effect, statewide zoning, and that was inappropriate because of the effect it would have on industry. Well, I'm beginning to see, I think, some resonances between this bill and the arguments that we had on that bill. This is simply a different way of approaching an issue, it isn't as direct as saying you won't do anything, but it may have the same effect. And, quite candidly, I can't quite figure out what the purpose of Senator Beutler's amendment is, given comments that I've heard about the existing authority of DEQ. And when you can't figure out what the amendment is supposed to do or would do by the addition of language into the statutes,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you please try to hold your conversations down, please. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...then I'm also apprehensive about that, because it may have some purpose that I can't discern, and it may be even an unintentional purpose for Senator Beutler and others who might be willing to support it. But if DEQ says they have authority to designate class A streams now, and that that authority isn't impinged by the bill, and that if they designated a class A stream and the bill passed, that the provisions of the bill would be effective for that stream, I can't determine what Senator Beutler's amendment does. So I'm...I...I think what I'm going to have to do is pay closer attention to what the purposes of this bill are and try to make a decision a little bit further along in the debate. Arguably, I should have been paying attention yesterday, but had other things on my mind. I hope that you will pay attention to this bill today, because I think it presents policy choices that we need to carefully consider before we vote on it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Jones, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, I think that Senator Wickersham expressed a lot of my concerns, too. We're talking about streams here. Is this going to be a river bill? I just cannot figure out for sure what the amendment does. I guess I wanted to express one thing. This came about because of the Long Pine Creek, and then all of a sudden we decided that there was a lot of cold water streams out in Scottsbluff area.