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FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2003 LB 34, 359

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The question is the advancement of LB 359 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay.

SENATOR ENGEL PRESIDING

SENATOR ENGEL: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 359.

SENATOR ENGEL: The bill is advanced. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, LB 34, a bill by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9 of this year, at that time referred to the Natural Resources Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Schrock, you are recognized to open on LB 34.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Distinguished President, members of the Legislature, this bill increases the well permit application fee collected by the natural resource districts for wells constructed in ground water management areas from \$17.50 to \$50. There are currently five districts that have ground water management plans. The NRDs have primary responsibility for enforcement of the Ground Water Management Act (sic) and Protection Act. Costs associated with such enforcements have risen significantly over the years, at the same time such districts have incurred reductions in state aid. The application fee for a well permit has remained at \$17.50 since the act was first adopted in 1975. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. And let me explain, if you're going to drill a well in the state of Nebraska and you're not in a ground water management area, your fee shall continue to remain at \$17.50. There are five NRDs in the state that have ground water management plans, and they do not necessarily encompass all of the NRDs, but I believe in four of the cases it does. And