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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003      LB 123, 145, 619

will on your own place and pump your water there, that water percolates back down into the ground, so it's not lost. But when you ship it out, it's gone and never will be replaced. So we're concerned about that, and we're concerned how we can draft legislation to do that. My priority bill, LB 619, kind of lays the groundwork on two issues. And then we'll have a bill following on committee amendments that Senator Schrock will explain, LB 123, that kind of puts the teeth into what my bill actually does. So with that, I'll give the...turn the time back to the Chair, and see if the committee amendments can be produced.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jones. Are there amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Natural Resources would move to amend with their committee amendments. (AM0380, Legislative Journal page 572.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first of all, I commend Senator Jones for introducing LB 619, and for his concerns on water issues in the state of Nebraska. And he did say, and I would reiterate, water is one of our most precious resources. AM0380 was amended to LB 619, and it is a combination of about two or three other bills, and I will go through them with you briefly. I don't think they are controversial. But if you would like to listen, I will do the best I can to explain them. LB 145 as amended by the committee by unanimous vote is amended into LB 619. It deals with dam safety issues, and with the Livestock Waste Management Act as it relates to construction of lagoons that may capture incidental runoff. LB 145 was LB 763 from two years ago, which was advanced unanimously from the committee but died because of lack of time. LB 145 is primarily intended to make it clear that the permit system for a water storage right and a dam safety permit are not necessarily dependent on each other. LB 145 places all storage water right permits language in the appropriate section, and places all the dam safety permit language in its section of law. Part of the problem is, the water storage...the dam safety