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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as we're discussing the amendment by Senator Beutler, and I've spoken to him a bit about this, I have a concern. He mentioned yesterday that perhaps this is the wrong amendment in the wrong bill, and of course, we're dealing with a bill that doesn't have a whole lot to do with what this amendment is. But I think this has offered a good discussion on what I think we can accurately describe as the problem of the decade for Nebraska; that is, how to deal with our water issues in the state. My concern about the amendment that Senator Beutler has proposed is that we are dealing with a specific response to the water problem, and tagging it to a specific proposal. I think that actually the problem that we have is broader than what is proposed in the amendment. And this...and very shortly, we are going to be briefed in our Appropriations Committee by the Attorney General's Office in connection with their proposals of what they're looking at in connection with this. But I think it's very important that we as a Legislature understand the problem, and that...I think that we don't want to approach it in a piecemeal fashion. I think we have to look at what will deal with the short-range and then also the long-range solution to the water issue in the state of Nebraska. On the specific proposal that Senator Beutler has, I was able to speak last night with several members of the natural resources districts, and they have a concern as to how far this would extend. The handout that Senator Beutler gave us the other day dealt with the Lower, the Middle, and the Upper Republican River, but their concern is, the broadness of this proposal could affect a lot of other districts and a lot of other matters. I know specifically there was a concern that this could even affect up in the area where the NPPD has drilled a number of wells to continue to supply the Gentleman power plant, because it does filter down into this area, and it could be applied in this area. And that's the reason why I think it's premature to be trying to resolve the problem by a specific amendment such as Senator Beutler is proposing. And I understand that in the long run he's not going to pursue this to a vote. But I think it is important that we talk about the issue, but...and I do respect his concerns about how we're going to pay for these things and how we're going to control the activities of various users of water in the state. I think it's been a good discussion between