

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

March 28, 2006 LB 1226

proceed with this this year, and people start entering into contracts or, you know, receiving breaks, you know, for a perpetual conservation easement, would that preclude, you know, the Game and Parks Commission from them coming in later and saying, oh, and by the way, you also have to...

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR FLOOD: ...make this land available to sportsmen for hunting and fishing purposes, you know, public access? I guess, would you consider holding off on this amendment so that we could look at a bigger picture and allow the interim study to go forward? And I understand...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't think the amendment would preclude anything, Senator. I mean, it's not like it's all going to happen so fast here that you're going to lose large tracts of land. It's going to take people awhile to get used to the idea, and it might be useful to you to have this out there, so that people begin to understand what a conservation easement is, and the varieties of ways in which it could be used. But I would be reluctant, or I would hope the body would adopt it right away, so we could put it to use and get it out there, and I'm sure there will be suggested refinements, even for its original intent of conserving water in those water-tight areas.

SENATOR BAKER: Time, time. Thank you, Senators Flood and Beutler. Senator Flood, your light is next, though.

SENATOR FLOOD: I want to thank--thank you, Mr. President and members--I want to thank Senator Beutler for answering my questions. I guess I like the idea of using a carrot rather than a stick when we talk about making changes on an emotional issue like water has been in the Republican River Valley, and I appreciate Senator Beutler's efforts. I'm a little hesitant at this time to go forward with something like this, because we don't know the fiscal impact. And secondly, I think a thoughtful approach over the summer, looking at the different ways that we could approach our problem with water in south central Nebraska and statewide, with an eye towards competing with other states around us that have become...that are