

Health, knowing of their background and to protection of our water supply, making sure that the water supply for all of our citizens is safe, the implementation of that legislation is left in the hands of the Department of Health. Pesticide use has a potential impact on our water supply. It has a potential impact on the health of our citizens. I don't see why having the Department of Health involved is a mistake. I think, in fact, it would enhance the process and make me feel a lot more comfortable about the legislation. In addition to the health perspective and the water safety perspective that I think would be added by this amendment, he also wants to add the Department of Environmental Quality and, obviously, that department is very important about the overall protection of our environment in the State of Nebraska and it just seems to make sense to me that with their background and perspective, along with the Health Department perspective, their involvement in the development of this plan makes sense to me and if there is a problem specifically with federal guidelines or something, that's one thing, but if we're just talking about exclusion rather than inclusion here, which is what I am hearing, I have a problem with that. It seems to me to make more sense to involve people and get their fears concerned. We're not cutting anybody out. I don't think he is taking this program away from the Department of Ag but simply adding to the process and the input and broadening the perspective of the development of that plan. So I would rise in support of the Beutler amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Madam President and colleagues, I think, you know, Senator Wesely and Senator Withem brought up concerns about whether or not these are involved. I think if you would read the bill and you'd look at page 12, it said the Department shall involve Natural Resource Districts and other state agencies including Environmental Quality, Natural Resource Commission, Department of Water Resources, Department of Health. It's already in there. What we're doing with this amendment is we're going to take us out of compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency. We are going to do that because it has to be a lead agency. It can't be multiple lead agencies and we are...what Senator Beutler's amendment does is it puts three agencies as lead agencies and they cannot be three lead agencies. You have to have one lead agency. This puts us out of compliance with that. I think that that's...the thing is in this bill, we talk about all of the different involvements of