

followed by Senators Ashford and Withem.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Madam President and members of the body, if you would look at the amendment, AM5401 on page 13, starting on line 11, it says, the Department of Environmental Quality shall be responsible for the adoption of standards for pesticides in surface water and ground water, and the Department of Health shall be responsible for the adoption of standards for pesticides in drinking water. These standards shall be established as action levels in the state management plan at which prevention and mitigation measures are implemented. And you go on down to line 21, it says, the department shall cooperate with and use existing expertise in other state agencies when developing a state management plan and shall not hire a hydrologist within the department for such purpose. It tells you right there that the coordination is already present in the bill. The other thing I think you have to remember is that if you have...I think someone suggested a little bit earlier that your responsibility to EPA is going to be through one agency and not three. I think I'd also like to mention, when we put it in the record on General File debate and I'd like to do it again on Select File, that this Legislature have oversight during the process of rule and regulation development in the Department of Agriculture. I think that we should have direct oversight. I think we should be involved with those rules and regulations as they are developed and I think that that includes the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. I think it also means that we should also be involved not only from your Committee on Agriculture but also from your Committee on Natural Resources. So I think we're trying to provide the oversight that is needed to protect all of Nebraska as well, not only just rural Nebraska but also urban Nebraska. So I would urge that you...I tell you that we don't need the amendment and urge you to not support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members, I have been listening to the debate today and did last time and, obviously, this is not an area of law that I spent a lot of time with, but it is kind of interesting. I think Senator Withem brought up some good points, but I do want to make the right vote here and I'm listening to the explanations on both sides of the issue and Senator Baack makes sense about the process of