

have anything to do with water transfers. His amendment has very much to do with the very delicate question of water transfers. The bill deals with minor matters. This deals with a significant matter. It is clearly, in my mind, not germane. If you're going to have a germaneness rule at all, it should be applied here, in my opinion. But, beyond this, this is not a consent calendar bill. This is a matter of major public policy. We did put the bill out for the Legislature to consider. Now here are the two philosophies that are in contention and I submit to you that they are significant enough that you will want to hear these on three stages of debate and not just a couple. What Senator Bernard-Stevens' philosophy says is that some water we ought to just transfer without any permit and without any opportunity for the public to comment on the transfer. What the committee said is, yes, we have to give these people a way to transfer which is not currently in the statute, but we have to give people an opportunity to comment on that transfer even for small amounts of water. The specific situation that is the subject of this particular bill is that there is a developer in Cass County who failed to be sure that there was enough water for his golf course and now he wants to transfer water from a neighborhood not too far away. Well, I've received letters from all the residents in that neighborhood saying, don't let them transfer water, don't let them transfer water and they're mad at me because I'm allowing, I'm suggesting that there be a hearing process by which that water could be transferred. But I said to them, look, you can get your input here. This is a hearing to determine whether they're taking your water and looking at all the other factors involved. Even though it's a small amount, it's important to those people because they don't have much water out there. They have what is called a parched, or a perched water table that doesn't recharge very well and they're really angry at this golf course for suggesting that water should come from their area. So the committee has said, we will set up a hearing process and give both parties a chance to talk about whether that transfer is appropriate and what Senator Bernard-Stevens is saying is no, no, no, we don't want to do that, we just want to take the water. And I think that is bad public policy and I think it's especially bad to try to implement that kind of policy without a full and fair debate as an amendment to a housekeeping bill and without an opportunity for your constituents to comment on this because this question goes to more, it goes to the question of industrial transfers right now, but you will want to think about this in conjunction with agricultural transfers and everything