

It adds a Section 8. My intent for this is to attempt to ensure those that may be held with some harm...be harmed by drawing of water after a permit either has been given or in some cases may not be given, that they will have some recourse before they totally lose their water, particularly for domestic use. Parts of Nebraska, specifically southeast Nebraska, are not necessarily...are not really blessed with a lot of underground water. Some sections it's nearly nil, some places it is pretty good, much like it is across the state. But, as Senator Beutler just said, we may not have that luxury all across...in some parts of the rest of the state in the not too distant future either. So I felt it was appropriate to try to introduce some sort of benefit or ability for local users, who may have some damage by having their water table drawn down, and before it's too late they might lose their whole water supply. This amendment simply says that if there is an unanticipated decline in ground water levels, they may request a hearing before the director. And if at such hearing the injured party presents evidence showing that the ground water levels have declined as a result of such transfer and shows the nature and extent of any resulting injury, the director may issue an order terminating the transfer to eliminate any further injury. And here again this is more specifically to areas that are already water short, they're somewhat skeptical of having water drawn for other uses, particularly irrigation in southeast Nebraska. And so I felt it was important to try to ensure some stability, some safety net, if you will, for their water supply before it's permanently gone, because I can foresee the time that once wells are drawn down they are not going to recover very rapidly, depending on the soil texture and that kind of thing. So I'd urge you to consider this amendment to Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, to at least provide some recourse for those landowners that potentially may be harmed.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I'll go through the list of speakers to see if you wish to speak to the Wehrbein amendment. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: No.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: No.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Vrtiska.