

that I put my amendment in. But I'm still not satisfied, we don't require a hydrology study, which is what was part of the committee amendments from the Natural Resources Committee, it's imposed on existing users in this case. I can assume that perhaps the director will require a hydrology study before they issue those permits above 200. But I still think we're leaving a hole. We have not really exposed this to the public for a hearing as to what we're trying to do in this amendment. It just...it bothers me that we are going through fairly rapidly this afternoon on Select File with really no other chance to look at this over a period of time. This bill, the amendments, if you know, just came to us today. We haven't really understood the implications, perhaps even the cost of what it will cost to have all these studies done from 200. Remember, we've had it from 3,000 on up, up until this point. Now we're dropping at 200, which is going to require perhaps more resources in the Department of Water Resources, financial resources, so that they can take care of an increasing amount of applications, if I'm interpreting it correctly. So, in spite of the fact I understand the need for this in this local area, and in spite of the fact I can see across the state there's probably increasing needs for this bill, it just seems to me we're moving awful fast on this issue without fully understanding all the implications, because, once again, water is so critical to Nebraska and it has different implications in different parts of the state. And I think that I'm going to vote against this at this point.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Before I proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Elmer. They are 20 students from Loomis High School and they're in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, just a couple of comments, if I may. First of all, it's said I like to put things in neat little boxes. Well, maybe there's some truth to that. But I like to think that the reason I like to put them in neat little boxes is because everything relates to everything else. And the question of fairness, the question of fairness has much to do with what little box you put something in. Now you have before you an amendment that says for one particular type of commercial use, golf courses, if you're going to do 200-acre feet or less, you don't have to have a permit.