

permit system is that it allows, in those instances where people are concerned, it allows for them, it gives them a public hearing, it gives them a voice in what's happening, it makes them feel right about how government works and whether they've been treated fairly. So, one more time, I would argue very strongly for the defeat of the amendment. The committee will be meeting...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in a couple of weeks on interim studies. I'm going to suggest to the committee that we take on the question of water transfer rights as it pertains to agriculture, commercial, generally, and across the board, and put into one piece of legislation for you a comprehensive piece dealing with the transfer of water...of ground water from other than the overlying land. And I think that that's the way to handle this situation in the end. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I would rise in support of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment and simply want to add a little bit of...of comment to the discussion that's going on. I think Senator Beutler is justified in being concerned about these issues, and these are important issues. But I think we are, perhaps, blowing this out of proportion in relationship to what exactly we're trying to do with the David Bernard-Stevens amendment. We're dealing with golf courses in general, but certainly specifically the golf course in Eagle. And, I mean, I have a brother who's in the golf course business in Omaha, and he doesn't need a permit, I guess, because he's on the city water system. But I did ask him, how much is 250 or 200-acre feet? Is that a lot of water for a golf course? And he said, that's a tremendous amount of water for a golf course. It's not a tremendous amount of water for somebody who's irrigating an acre of farmland, but it's a lot of water for somebody running a golf course. Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment is going to allow a golf course out in Eagle to get some water so they can water their turf. They've attempted to go through the process, to follow the system, to have a permit hearing, and the department has told them that they can't do that under current statute. So what Senator Bernard-Stevens is attempting to do is to take care of a problem of an industry in Nebraska that is faced with difficulty, of being denied access