

to water. It's dependent...the success of their business is dependent upon the ability to have water. We're talking, for golf courses, a very small amount of water. They'll probably use less than 100-acre feet of water, and the amendment simply allows a business to continue on with the investment that they've made in Nebraska. I doubt seriously that we're going to negatively impact or affect the water levels of any of the surrounding property owners, and, indeed, with Senator Wehrbein's amendment we provide them some protection if that were to occur, which is highly unlikely. I would recommend that the body advance Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment because I think it's a reasonable solution to a relatively minor problem, and perhaps policywise Senator Beutler thinks we're getting into bigger and broader issues here and I, personally, don't see that we are. I think we're dealing with a relatively specific problem. We're talking about a relatively small proportion of water. And certainly, I think, if Senator Jones or any of the other experts on the floor would tell you that if you're irrigating land, 200-acre feet of water is not a lot of water. If you are trying to water a golf course, it's a lot of water, and you're probably not going to need that much or use that much, and you're probably not going to impact on your neighbors very much if you go out and water the turf on your grass on an 18-hole golf course. So I would recommend that we adopt the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment. I think we are debating this issue to death, and I think it's beyond what the impact is, and I would recommend to the body that we advance the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Elmer, you're next.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is making a mountain out of a mole hill, really. If that was a farmer down there that drilled a well and was going to use 200-acre feet to water some crops or something, it would have the identical impact on the aquifer that this well would have. What difference does it make? It's being put to a benefit...it's being put to a beneficial use. The only difference is that it's being moved a little ways. That doesn't change the wells impact, whether the water is used there or somewhere else. So what is being talked about here is if we're going to put into effect a system where every well that anybody drills is going to use any significant amount of water, which is represented here to be very small quantities, is going to have to go through the