

opposition that they needed this time to look at putting the disagreement of mandatory versus nonmandatory aside. That is over. That is gone. What now they will be talking about in meetings over the interim is looking at the administration, probably looking at the liability, and certainly looking at the most efficient, economical way to institute a one-call notification system in the State of Nebraska. This isn't a new concept I might remind you. This has happened in other states, and I would hope that those who will be meeting on this issue will draw upon that knowledge that are in the operating systems across the United States. One-call notification I think is very important, not only for the safety but also for the hundreds of thousands of dollars that are spent unnecessarily when there is an accident, when there is a cable cut or a pipe burst. With that, I urge you to vote for the amendment so we have the basic LB 421 in place and then I will go up and put my bracket motion forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I rise in support of the Kristensen amendment. I have had problems with LB 421 since it was introduced to the Transportation Committee. There are many rural water districts within my legislative district and others who had some problems with the mandatory portion of the bill. I think this amendment is reasoned, well thought out. I think it's going to give us some time to try to move forward in a thoughtful manner in implementing this system which I think needs to be done. And I would think that all of us would be very comfortable in supporting the Kristensen amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Any other discussion on the amendment by Senator Kristensen? Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, rise to support this move. I think that there's been quite a bit of discussion and I don't want to take up any time except to explain to you that I, too, have a large number of rural water districts that have a deep concern about their liability and their costs that might be involved. And so I think to work this out the way they are talking is probably the best answer to everybody and so I support this type of action. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Any other