

the extent of ground water contamination. The Environmental Protection Agency has made this statement. There is no practical way to do it. Despite numerous, well-documented incidents concerning contamination that continue to come to light, EPA and the nation as a whole lack a reliable means to systematically measure the amount of damage already done and likely to occur. I feel that there are so many unknowns on this issue that we have controls now. We have practically an entire new board on the State Environmental Control Agency. We have a new director. I believe that if we have a problem worse than it is, and it surfaces, this board and commission, and the director that we now have will be on top of it immediately. By having this bill, and the publicity that the bill has gotten, will make the NRD's and the people more aware that there might be a problem, and how serious is the problem. I believe that we can take this up if it is proven, and that they have the controls and the authority to do it now. I would say let's indefinitely postpone LB 426 and go ahead with the rest of the agenda. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chris Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't think any of the speakers can support the statements they are making. First of all the statement was made that the bill is not needed. I pointed out to you last time, and you have in your possession right now, maps of the State of Nebraska verifying that significant portions of Holt County and Merrick County already are over ten parts per million, and some of those areas significantly over twenty parts per million. There are significant broad areas of the state that are currently having bad problems. In addition to that there are over twenty-six water systems in this state that have had to adjust or modify their systems because of nitrate pollution. I would call that an existing problem. The Hall County study has been brought to your attention. I would like to bring it more to your attention. What do the Hall County studies say? By the way, that was the University of Nebraska study, I believe. But what is important about it are some of its conclusions because what it concludes basically tells us that something effective can