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LB 547

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Kremer, if there...what is the difference in the processing of these that would necessitate us bringing this bill back at this late date and amending it? You're talking about a difference of a \$150 as far as an application is concerned, and I was not aware from the Resources Commission or the Department, excuse me, that there was that substantial a difference in these applications. Is it that major a difference?

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Cullan, the request for the change did not come from the Commission. It came from those that were involved with the building of a reservoir and fearful that this cost of \$200 may discourage someone from making an application, and a number of people that already have been granted a water right out of a stream all have to be reviewed as I understand it, and there are less, many less people involved in it in those that would have rights out of a reservoir, and then the workload that continues to monitor the right to the use of water is much greater out of a stream than it is out of a reservoir.

SENATOR CULLAN: At any rate, Senator Kremer, despite the increase in the fees that we are talking about, even at the \$200 level, is it not true that we would still not cover the fixed cost and the additional cost issuing these permits generate?

SENATOR KREMER: I suppose there may be cases when this would be true, not always. I did not converse with the Department, but others said they have and said they could get along with this change as related to reservoirs rather than streams.

SENATOR CULLAN: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I fail to...and I very rarely oppose Senator Kremer, but I fail to see the reason to lower these fees. I don't think \$200 is a substantial fee considering the work that is done, and I'm not sure that it would...I don't think the \$200 fee is substantial enough to discourage people from building reservoirs or requesting permits for these reservoirs and on top of that I think perhaps it would have just the opposite effect which might be good. Some people who file a fee for \$50 and then not carry through with the project and then the state has to spend a good deal more money than that to process the application and then they don't go ahead with the project. I think those people who benefit from these projects should pay a little bit more of the cost of the fees and that's just a philosophical difference and I intend