

May 8, 1979

LB 595

carrying out the planning and review process and updating the plan for Nebraska's use of her resources, especially water in this case. Basically the amendment appears to be a long one, and it is. It strikes Section 2. We could have gone to the various paragraphs in the bill in Section 2 and amended them, but I felt and the Committee felt that it would be more clearly understood if it was rewritten entirely, and so you have the amendment striking Section 2 in its entirety. Much of the material in LB 595 is the same in the amendment as is in the bill. Senator Warner has already stated there are two basic changes that I feel and I think most of our Committee feel, the Public Works Committee feels, are very important. The first one has to do with the appointment of the Public Advisory Board. Now the Public Works Committee has strongly felt and continues to feel that in the development of water planning and process in Nebraska we do need a strong public input made up of all interests in water, and everyone does have an interest in this resource from a newborn babe to that person maybe expending his last day on this planet. Everyone has an interest in water and that's understood, and public participation has been encouraged by the Committee and by myself in the last number of years basically because we feel that the public has a right and the public needs to be heard. Secondly, unless the public is heard, unless the public goes along with what the Legislature does, it's almost impossible to pass legislation that will be effective. Consequently, the bill provides on Page 4, I mean the amendment provides on Page 4 that this Public Advisory Group shall be appointed by the Natural Resources Commission, and not by the Governor. Now the Governor has had the responsibility and he has appointed an interagency water coordinating commission made up of ten segments of government in its various levels, and I'll name them for you, and I think this is proper so the Governor does have a group of people that's working with him, and will coordinate this planning and review process. The group that he named is the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Environmental Control, the Game and Parks Commission, the Conservation Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, Water Resources Center of the University of Nebraska, the State Office of Planning and Programming, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Administrative Services. So we have these ten state agencies. Now that's well and good. Now, when it comes to making the appointment of the Public Advisory Group we think it's wrong what LB 595 says because of the flexibility that's needed in this advisory group. When the Natural Resources Commission makes this appointment, they

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