

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, Senator Murphy said this is a giant step backward. I would submit to you that it definitely is a step forward. We are talking about a resource that people are trying to recover from the earth, a resource that we desperately need, a resource that we have not been allowing them to explore for us simply because we have been overregulating them. Senator Murphy also indicated that people need to know the actual cost of drilling the well. That is exactly what the overregulation was doing that brought the hearings about that Senator Dworak mentioned this last summer. The prospectus was asking for the exact cost of drilling a well to be put on the prospectus before the drilling ever started. Well, if anybody has ever drilled any type of a well, let alone an oil well, you understand that you do not know and cannot put down the exact cost beforehand. It is a speculative gamble at best. Many things can happen during the course of drilling that well that escalate the cost dramatically. Because of concerns within the department, because of concerns as Senator Murphy pointed out with people needing to know every last detail, they were asking for details that could not possibly be given, including the amount of production from the wells in many cases in advance. There is no question in my mind that there are people in the state of Nebraska that are willing to invest money in oil well exploration, that have been investing money in the past, that are going to be cut out from investing that money if this amendment is not adopted. We are simply going to tell them that you don't know enough about your finances, we are not going to let you do it, and I don't think that is right. I think it is imperative that this amendment be adopted. These people that have been investing these funds are the ones that are telling me they need it. They are telling me far more than the issuer dealers are. The issuer dealers, there might be a few of them around that have in the past not been exactly honest and I won't argue that point, but when Senator Dworak says that they need regulations that were not unregulating all the issuer dealers in the State of Nebraska with this amendment, they still have to be regulated and file the prospectuses and the whole bit if they are selling it to the public. This section simply deals with private offerings, people that have been in the habit of investing in the past with them. I think there is a lot of misunderstanding. Naturally the Department of Banking is upset if we are taking their ability to promote regulations, and I suppose that if I was in that position I would be upset too, but I am very upset when people are being overregulated in the State of Nebraska and I submit to you that is exactly what is happening right now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.