

just like to briefly explain, I hope clearly, exactly what the bill does and then let Senator Vickers and others discuss why it needs to be done, and, of course, there will be many who will be willing to discuss why it should not be done. But the bill is basically a local control bill. Basically, it is going to give to the local Natural Resource Districts additional power to regulate the competing interests of different water users. Let me refresh your memories just briefly. You may recall that the mechanism that we have adopted in this state for the control of water is to allow each of the local NRDs to do the job and if they think there is a problem, then they have a process by which they can declare a control area, and once they declare a control area, there are a number of things they can do. They have a number of tools that they can use. They can regulate the withdrawal of water. They can implement a rotation system. They can implement well spacing requirements, and then down at the bottom it says, they may adopt such other reasonable regulations as are necessary to carry out the intent of the Groundwater Management Act. Now all of these are on page 10 of the bill in our current law in case you wanted to look them over. That is what a control area is. That is what you can do if you have a control area. Then the next question is, under what conditions can you declare a control area? Under the current law there are three specific situations that can exist that would allow you to declare a control area, and if you look on page 5 and 6 of your bill, you can see the current law and basically it says that a control area may be designated following a hearing under these conditions. The development and utilization of the groundwater supply has caused or is likely to cause within reasonable foreseeable future..the reasonably foreseeable future, the existence of any of the following conditions. An inadequate groundwater supply to meet present or reasonably foreseeable uses for beneficial use of the groundwater. Okay, inadequate supply, dewatering of an aquifer resulting in the deterioration of the quality of the groundwater. That is the second condition under existing law, dewatering. And the third condition where you can have a control area is that pollution of groundwater has occurred or is likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future. Okay, I have stated the present law for you. What the bill does now, it adds two additional criteria that the local NRD can use to establish a groundwater control area, and those two additional criteria are shown on page 6 of the bill. The one is this, interference with present or reasonably foreseeable uses of surface water in the district, that is a conflict between groundwater and surface water. And the