

essential that we leave this section in the bill so that those smaller irrigation districts without a large amount of capital, without the ability to get the hydrologist and to figure out the degrees based on each parcel of land within the area that they are serving, then I think what we are doing by removing this language is we are closing the door and foregoing those people of having the opportunity to protect their appropriation. I think that would be an unfortunate turn of events, and not one that I believe would be for the best interest or benefit of the people of the State of Nebraska. I urge you to oppose the Beutler amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I join Senator Vickers in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment. I would like to...I think Senator Vickers has very adequately and provisionally explained the reasons why the amendment proposed by Senator Beutler is not acceptable. I would like to point out also, and I would hope that most of you would listen, that many of the individuals who might be assessed this once in a lifetime charge, as we speak of it, of 50 cents an acre are inadvertently beneficiaries of the recharge system. They are not intentional beneficiaries, and in many cases they do not want or need the recharge. The truth is also in fact that frequently when an irrigation canal or a reservoir is located near a certain farm the recharge can, in fact, be a handicap, and the seepage can prevent the farmer from operating his land. So this is not for a beneficial use. The charge is not being made as a beneficial use. It is being made in recognition of the ability to recharge. We feel...and Senator Beutler I think, if we would have had the chance to sit down and discuss it with him in greater length, I think might have agreed that the individual who is being assessed this charge would have his own irrigation system financed and paid for by himself, have to finance the operation of that system, and the repair, maintenance and all the rest of that, as opposed to the surface water user who receives his allocation of water from a reservoir, a canal, a river, or some other manner. They really cannot compare the two. So I would join Senator Vickers in asking you not to accept the Beutler amendment. I think it would be wrong. I think it is important that we recognize the beneficial impact of recharge. But we have two totally