

equipment they have. But those people, and I think this point needs to be made, those people who are out there doing it are drinking that water too. They are cognizant of the situation. The vast majority of them are going to be protective of their own supply of water. It is our families, it is our livestock that is drinking it. I guess I have a really difficult time, even though I understand Senator Eret's concerns, I have a really difficult time in saying that the people who live in a community I think under the terms of the amendment, 15 services or more than 25 year round residents, somehow need to be protected a little more than perhaps one lone family living anywhere in the State of Nebraska. So I'm going to oppose the Eret amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, do you wish to speak on the Eret amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, as I indicated earlier, I understand Senator Eret's concern. I am concerned also about the problem. But I think the problem can be addressed without the amendment. I want to point out again, as I did earlier, that the DEC can deny the right for a chemigation permit anywhere they think there is a threat. Certainly if there is an indication of a threat then that permit will not be approved. I believe it might have been Senator Carsten, I wasn't listening closely, but I think you want to recognize the denial of a permit to allow for the use of chemigation does not mean that you cannot apply chemicals, or that they must be applied in a manner which is more safe than under a chemigation process. Again I want to point out that the individual who applies a chemical, my farm is located on the very edge of Bellwood and within a short distance of the water supply. I can apply any kind of chemical I wish on that without supervision, totally unsupervised, totally without restrictions. And no one can advise or consult me in that manner whatsoever. Now if a problem develops we are trying to deal with that in a new bill this year. But I want to emphasize that under this bill I believe that the municipal water supply is better protected than if you were to adopt Senator Eret's amendment. Because if you adopt the Eret amendment all you have done is denied the farmer one area of the application of chemicals, but you have allowed him to do anything else he wishes, either personally or through a commercial applicator. There is no guarantee that the commercial applicator or the individual farmer is going to be as well