

It's ironic, this probably is one of the more important water quality bills that we have had before us and a relatively nonpopulated body in here today paying much attention to this one, but it is a significant step forward. I know that Senator Beutler and Senator Schmit have been opposed, I guess, in philosophy on how we should address contamination problems in the State of Nebraska, but in this particular case they have joined forces to try and put some measures or steps together to address the problem as best they can through this vehicle. I would just say that it's clear that not everyone is satisfied with the total product, but I do believe that it does take a step in the right direction, allows us to work with an entity here that we can either build upon or subtract from that will help us ensure quality water in the coming years and I think Senator Schmit hit upon the point that this is part of an overall package of bills that address the environmental concerns of the state. I think it is a step forward for us and probably one of the more significant issues in the water quality area that we'll discuss in the coming year. I have to personally say I'm not as...probably as aware of all of the impact of this bill as I should be and I'm going to study it very closely between now and Select File. I have no amendments to offer today and if I find areas that I am concerned with, I will share them with Senator Beutler or Senator Schmit and I want to make sure, to be honest with you, that if we are going to take this step forward, that is a meaningful step and not just some cosmetic approach to the problem. Thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you. Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Madam President, members of the body, I also am going to support the bill and I need to look at the bill further to see whether it is going to go far enough as I want it to. I do have a question to ask Senator Schmit and that is in the area of education. I heard him say that when we have a nonpoint source that there is a mechanism in there to get the people aware of what is happening and I just kind of wanted his rationale how that could be implemented and what could be done in that particular area.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Sieck, of course the Natural Resource Districts, I believe, have moved quite a ways down