

crux of the whole problem in the State of Nebraska as far as polluted water fields...polluted water is because of the poor construction of wells through the many, many years before. I can talk from experience because I have my own well on my own farm is contributing to the nitrate, it is coming into my well and I know that. There are many wells in my area that are in the same position and they need to be constructed properly. So I urge you to support the bill or support the committee amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson about the committee amendments.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, it is my understanding the committee amendments become the bill. So I wish to speak to the bill. So I will make my comments short and hopefully to the point. I feel this is...Senator Schmit and others have worked very hard in trying to address the water contamination problem in this state. As Senator Sieck already highlighted, this clearly is one of several bills in a package that we have been working on, both in the Public Works Committee and the Agriculture and Environment Committee, to address the growing concern by the public that the Legislature has been reluctant to address the water quality issue. It is clear, by many packages or many legislative proposals, the chemigation bill, the underground fuel storage tank bill, the water contamination bill, and now the well drillers bill, that we are taking every step possible with DEC and the NRDs and the Natural Resource Commission in trying to address the concerns that the public has. I think it speaks well for the Nebraska Well Drillers Association to come in and support legislation like this. I think that they are using wisdom in coming forward and speaking to us and recognizing that they are a very important component in the water quality issue. And I would hope that the Nebraska Fertilizer Institute would also come forward, in the coming years, to be a part of the overall package, if you will, of water quality amendments and legislation because I'd much prefer that those bodies show some foresight and participate in the process and actually propose changes that would help the State of Nebraska, specifically our environment, than to allow other interest groups to decide for them the future of their industry. I think, as I've said, the well drillers have certainly shown to us their willingness to stand up and say, we will do our part to try and address the concerns the state has had over