

CLERK: 16 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

PRESIDENT MOUL: House is under call. Would all unexcused senators please return to the chamber and record their presence. All unauthorized personnel must leave the floor. Would the senators please check in. The house is under call. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President and members. I'll close as people come back to the chamber, but I guess Senator Lindsay made a representation that the reason that we are moving to bracket is because the irrigators don't want to be responsible with water to the municipalities and I...I didn't bring this resolution or this bracket motion for that purpose at all. I'm looking at it more from the broader picture of setting water policy for the State of Nebraska. As I have wandered the floor as the speeches have been going on during the bracket motion, I've talked to several people about the bill just to find out if they know what's in the resolution (sic). Many do not. Many feel uncomfortable, but, you know, rather than ask the questions that may have to be asked, we're probably just going to vote the bill across and say, well, you know, we passed a water law to protect our municipal supplies, but there are points in the bill that I think, quite frankly, are very broad-based. And I can't answer the question that was raised as to why the public has shown little or no interest in coming forward during the interim study process to submit public testimony. I don't know if it was a fact that the tax issue was on everybody's mind this past summer and nobody really was paying attention or what it was, but we just didn't get the kind of responses that I think you need when you're changing water policy, which, when you look at the State of Nebraska and the responsibility in the abundance of water we have in this state, I think that bears with it greater responsibility for this body to protect it. But we also are looking at sharing water and that's really what we're at with this issue, is really setting up a system by which we can all share the water equally and responsibly, but I'm concerned that I really just don't know, as Senator Coordsen's speech was, where we're going with this. I just got a bad feeling and maybe that's...I realize...I've heard Senator Beutler say several times today, how do I argue about...against that, and I...I...I feel badly for him because I, like Senator Coordsen and some others, just have a gut feeling that this is not something that we want to vote for at this time, but rather than prolong my speech I would just ask