

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB498

Chairperson: Senator Chris Langemeier

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 498 removes *in situ* mining from certain regulations related to the withdrawal and transfer of water from underground aquifers.

The reason for this bill is to recognize that existing regulations are not effective when dealing with *in situ* mining, in which the majority of water is continually re-injected back into the aquifer after being withdrawn.

This bill leaves in place the authority of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to regulate the usage and flow of underground water by *in situ* mining through the state's Aquifer Exemption process and Underground Injection Control Permits (UICs).

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator LeRoy Louden