

M E M O R A N D U M

March 12, 1984

TO: SENATOR DOLE  
FROM: ED DUCKERS  
RE: GROUNDWATER RECHARGE BILL

Sometime this month the Energy Committee will mark up a bill being pushed by Senator Nickles to establish a program of groundwater recharge demonstration projects in the High Plains states. Groundwater recharge is potentially a method of restoring depleted water tables in aquifers.

This bill was first advanced last year by Senator Exon and you did not want to cosponsor his bill. Since then, Senator Nickles has introduced the same bill and moved it through his subcommittee.

Last week members of the Hays city commission were in to encourage your support of the legislation. The groundwater supply that Hays relies on is being rapidly depleted. They feel recharge is a viable alternative but it has never been done before. A federal demonstration program would actual test recharge techniques.

The Nickles bill would authorize \$500,000 to identify 12 demonstration projects in the High Plains States and 9 in other reclamation states. It would also authorize \$20 million over the next five years (beginning in year three) to design, construct and operate the projects.

An identical bill passed the House by voice vote last summer. The only serious objection to the bill has been voiced by OMB. OMB objects to the \$20 million authorization. Senator McClure will support Senator Nickles.

Senator Nickles will move the House passed version of the bill in the Energy Committee. If you want to support this bill, we should send a letter to Nickles indicating that.

SEND LETTER?

YES  \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_