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Send a Letter to the Editor

The Platte Institute strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of

PLATTE CHAT

Platte Institute Releases Pair of Studies at Water Management Summit

On Thursday, Sept. 23, the Platte Institute for Economic Research hosted the 2010 Water Management Summit in Gothenburg. The event featured keynote speaker Tom Osborne as well as many local and national water management experts.

Coinciding with the event was the release of a pair of academic research studies commissioned by the Platte Institute on the subject of water management. The first study was authored by Dr. Ray Supalla, an agricultural economist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The study, "Addressing Nebraska's Economic Issues in Water Policy," examines the unique and diverse water policy challenges in the state. The study focuses on the need to either reduce our consumptive use of water in irrigation or to find cost effective ways of augmenting water supplies. The study concludes that water policy officials should encourage increased use of land retirement programs as an alternative to allocation, make greater use of water markets, minimize taxpayer payments for irrigation reductions, and encourage the state to invest more in research and water planning to insure that we meet future needs at a low cost.

people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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To download a copy of the Dr. Supalla study, please click [HERE](#).

Also released was a study authored by national water expert Mary Kelly entitled "Nebraska's Evolving Water Law-Overview of Challenges and Opportunities," which examines the difficulty of effective water management, despite Nebraska's abundance of this natural resource. The study states that while Nebraska is endowed with abundant water resources, it faces some difficult management challenges over the next several years. Interaction between ground water and surface water and the conflicts that can generate between respective users of these two supply sources are at the top of the policy agenda, along with Republican River Compact delivery issues and challenges in protecting instream flows for fish, wildlife, and recreational tourism. It also says that while there are some features of water law and policy in other states that may help inform the further development of Nebraska's water management framework, including a more substantial move to capping aquifer withdrawals while allowing trading of rights, more comprehensive approaches to setting instream flow targets are needed. In addition, with financing for consumptive use reductions being a prominent issue requiring significant resources, it will be particularly important to ensure efficiency and transparency in the expenditure of funds for this purpose.

To download a copy of Mary Kelly's study, please click [HERE](#).

Hard copies of both studies are available by calling the Platte Institute office at 402-452-3737.

www.platteinstitute.org

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