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allow for appeals to be directed through local school boards and limit enrollment to the charter school's district.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/07/96

## ENVIRONMENT

### SPEAKER JOHNSON NAMED TO CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) State House Speaker Glen D. Johnson was one of two honorees inducted into the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame recently.

The Okemah Democrat was named a "Friend of Conservation" by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts at their annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

"Throughout his career in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Speaker Johnson has been a strong supporter and advocate for Oklahoma's conservation districts," said association President A.E. Cranford.

Johnson, who is serving his third term as Speaker of the 101-member House of Representatives, has served in the state Legislature since 1982.

"I am happy to accept this award on behalf of young Oklahomans, and hope that they too will recognize the importance of conservation," said Speaker Johnson.

The late L.L. "Red" Males, a pioneer in the Washita Conservation District for more than 30 years, also was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Conservation Hall of Fame was established in 1985 to recognize friends of conservation and conservation district directors who have had a positive influence on Oklahoma's conservation programs.

FROM: SENATE MEDIA

DATE: 03/05/96

### RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER DEQ RESPONSIBILITIES BACK TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SPARKS DEBATE

■(GIT) "I'm going to make both sides mad! It's not who's doing it. It's the whole system. It's the whole bureaucracy. I don't think it will make any difference who it goes to. I don't think it makes a hill of beans were it's put. The fees will still be the same," said Rep. Mark Seikel, D-Harrah today during a debate Wednesday on the House floor regarding HJR1095, authored by Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne.

This measure transfers certain responsibilities from the Department of Environmental Quality back to the Health Department. The measure brought forth startling differences of opinions, and sparked a dynamic debate by numerous members of the House.

Rep. Mass said he authored the bill after increased complaints from his rural constituents regarding the astronomical fees they felt they were paying under the DEQ. After the DEQ was born, employees of the Health Department were transferred to the new agency. Mass said he feels that under different leadership back at the health department, issues may be resolved more effectively.

Rep. Bill Graves, R-Oklahoma City, said, "Certainly the government has abused their power in regards to the environment."

Rep. Terry Matlock, D-Garvin, said, "Before we switched things over, I had never had any complaints from my constituents. I get call after call now."

Rep. Seikel argued that he felt neither system was working. He said he felt the system would

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