

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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May 3, 1999

LB 822, 870

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the adoption of the committee amendment? Amendment on the desk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM1529.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I would withdraw that amendment and refile it at the end of the pending amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It's withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Beutler, AM...I'm sorry. Senator Schrock, AM1530. (Legislative Journal page 1748.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this amendment simply states that it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$150,000 annually to the department to enhance water qual...to enhance the water quality monitoring program. It allows the DEQ to focus on those problem areas rather than having to do all tests where they might not need to. Senator Beutler's amendment called for some specific testing of some specific problems, and it may or may not be appropriate to test for those things. But I recall that once upon a time we were required to do EPA tests in this state for a pineapple herbicide. And so I'm a little reluctant to direct DEQ on how they should be testing, but I do agree with Senator Beutler that we do need more money for water monitoring in this state, and I think we can review this on an annual basis and find out if they are coming up with the information that we want. You may recall, in LB 822 we were told that the DEQ only has resources at the present time to monitor our streams once every five years. And there are some of us who do not believe that is adequate. And at one time we had requested \$190,000, and we hope this is a compromise that is going to be acceptable to the Governor and to the members of the Legislature. So with that opening, I would ask you to support AM1530. If you have any questions, I would be glad to try and answer them.