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 LR 242, 243

amendments. So if you have questions on why I'm changing any one or all of those three words on line 6, page 1 of the committee amendments, ask me the question, and I will answer it. You are free at the same time to ask me a question about anything else in the bill, or anything else in the universe that pleases you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before going to the next speaker, and while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 242 and LR 243. Senator Schrock, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I will support your amendment, Senator Chambers. And line of...in clarifying what was stated earlier, the amended version is essentially the same as the green copy, with some clarification, and the five bills you talked about. In answer to Senator Bourne's enquiry, why do we need this bill, we need this bill because in some areas of the state the use of the water has exceeded its capacity to replenish itself, and the competing interest for water is probably more than the resources can support. And we also need this bill because it provides for quite a little bit more flexibility in how the water is used, and it provides some flexibility in what uses it can be used for. And I would say up front that this is an important bill for municipalities and for the water that they consume. And as far as the cost of the bill, \$2.5 million, I don't know how much money we've spent in litigation over the past 20 years, but \$2.5 million doesn't even cover 1 years' litigation that we've had with the states of Kansas and Wyoming and Colorado. But we do have an ongoing suit now. And if we don't get a handle on the use of water in the state, we'll probably have a lot more, and they will be expensive.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I...this is a very comprehensive and difficult bill to understand. But I agree with Senator Schrock that it's one that's very, very necessary. But I also agree with Senator Bourne that it is one that will be very, very expensive.