

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. We'll now go to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I just wish that we could look at this in kind of a common sense sort of way and push aside the urban-rural sort of thing because I think the truth can be approached from a different direction and you can talk about the best interest of the irrigators out there. It's the irrigators out there that are putting all this money into the Washington lawyer. It's not just the irrigators. Through the power districts, there are a lot of other people involved. But, by and large, the 150, 200, \$250 an hour that's being put on our Washington lawyers is being put in by the irrigators. And I think we all would argue that if there was a reasonable chance that what they were doing would benefit them in a way they think or been told it would benefit them, that you couldn't argue about that. But I think good sense to anyone that has looked at this issue and what has happened over the years would indicate that the time has come for the settlement, for the negotiation, for a Nebraska settlement and negotiation. And if you allow this kind of nonsense to go on that is going on today to further federal litigation, to throw good money after bad on this issue, all you're doing is wasting the irrigators' money. You're wasting the money of the rural areas. Now people can differ as to what is sensible and what is not and I don't know how you approach that question, but one way I wanted to ask you to think about it was to look at this article by Ron Watkins that I passed out to you that, this is back in September of 1990. Now Ron Watkins is president of the Nebraska Public Power District. That is not a district that is urban oriented. It's not a district that is particularly rural oriented, but it certainly, certainly has great respect for all the irrigators that it serves. And if you read between the lines in this article, in fact, you don't even have to read very much between the lines, what Ron Watkins is saying to the people, to the public is, hey, there are certain federal mandates out there now, this is the 1990s and we don't like all this crap about saving the wildlife and all the water and all the resources that have to go to these interests, but it is the 1990s, people in America are concerned about this. The federal government does have laws that say you have to build these things in and it's time to be realistic. Nebraska irrigators were urged Wednesday to negot...this is back in September, were urged to negotiate a settlement of the Kingsley Dam relicensing controversy. Watkins