

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I appreciate that explanation because I felt that they wanted to do this, and I wanted to be assured that they did, because actually the way it's wo...you...if you didn't know, you could say they might refuse and we still wouldn't have the data. But it's very...it's a cooperative issue and I appreciate that. The other thing is, and perhaps this is yours, Senator Beutler, and I want just very briefly what you see is the process on what I consider a very serious issue, and I know you do, and I'm sure the body does, as you work through this into the next year, a time line or anything. I don't expect you to give away any detailed discussions that you've had because I know it's a very contentious issue, but how you might see this play out, that what we could expect in January.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I assume you're talking about the conjunctive use bill...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, and the connection with Kansas, all these, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The...the...the agreement that essentially the committee has made with interested parties is that we would work real hard to develop a larger consensus on this. I think there is a general consensus on it now among people who are informed on the issue. However, as you well know, it takes a while and a lot of processes and a great amount of time to get the facts as to what's going on down to everybody out there. And so we've agreed to hold the bill this session. I plan to call the committee together later this session to add whatever amendments the committee sees fit to add on the basis of what we've heard during the session. And then we plan to take out to the public again in the fall, in the summer and the fall, 108, with suggested amendments and to see how the public's reacting to that, see if there are any weak spots in it, see what more we might want to add to it before we finally bring it back to the Legislature in January again. As soon as it gets back in January, it would be my intent to call the committee together, make any final amendments, prioritize the bill, send it out and start the hearing...start the floor debate on it in January.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. That's what I just kind of wondered what to expect because it does involve potentially money in terms of future court cases. And I know we're all