

like that we need to be able to have a better understanding of how much water we're using and whether that actually is more than the compact calls for. And secondarily, like Senator Beutler explained, the way the mechanism in the compact is written, there is no way to know in advance for water planning purposes how much water is going to be available. Only know how much water...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...was there in the past and there's nothing that you can do as far as regulation is concerned under the current compact structure the way I understand it.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, thank you. I guess the other question I had was when you define virgin water supply, is this commonly accepted terminology? Is this the definition...is the definition universal?

SENATOR ELMER: I don't know that very many other compacts would have that though Senator Beutler did refer to the fact that there are other compacts written in a similar way that are somewhat confusing also.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. I might have some questions later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bromm, followed by Senators Elmer, Wesely, McKenzie and Dierks.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President, and I don't want to retrod any of the ground that has been covered and Senator Elmer and Senator Beutler have covered I think the crux of the problem here. It's obvious and there's been a lot of publicity the last several years about the controversy and potential controversy that exists between Nebraska and Kansas and this could, if not negotiations, it certainly could lead to some litigation. There is definitely some differences of interpretation on what the original Republican River Compact means. It was negotiated at a time when lots of things were different than they are now. The uses that were made of the water were different, the degree that the water was demanded by people in the entire Republican River Valley was substantially different then. Technology was different. The ways that we measure usage now could certainly be much more scientific than they were then and all those sorts