

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...plenty of ability to help.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President, and members. I think Senator Beutler is just getting to eat his lunch, maybe, so I...I'll go on here a second and then ask Senator Beutler possibly a question. This is the one issue of LB 108 that we really haven't had an opportunity to discuss so far, that has been a concern of mine, and I had asked DWR for some cost estimates. That's difficult to do because they do not know, of course, if we would ever be required. They think it would not be very likely that we would ever be required to do a statewide study. And so trying to determine what the cost would be in different areas of the state could be very difficult. They said that range that they gave me, Senator Dierks, could be anywhere between \$125,000 and \$150,000 per basin. There are 13 basins and so that would be one general estimate. And that would come up, too, if we were doing it statewide, which no one thinks that we would, but I think that that possibility exists. And when we're passing legislation, we need to have a discussion of what the worst case scenario, what that could be. So that would be a couple of million dollars a year as long as it took to do those...those studies. But I think that Senator Beutler has indicated that the Environmental Trust has said that they would be interested in being partners, and so it's very difficult to come up with, I think, a very objective estimate. But it's something that I've been very concerned about because as I went on the water tour and talked with the environmental attorneys and people from other states, the costs were tremendous to do the studies. And I'm very concerned that people have been somewhat reluctant to get that number, and I can understand that because they don't want to be held to it, that there could be some real variances. But all along, this has been one of my major concerns with, as we do this, and then if we would begin to do the studies and then...and this is, Senator Beutler, to you. If the water master then at some later point in time would be appointed on...coming into the state to resolve an issue, would that water master order another entire new set of studies?