

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I want to say once and for all.

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

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Beutler, would you like to continue with your answer to Senator Bohlke?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to say once and for all what these hydrological relationships are in all areas of the state where conflicts develop, but I can't say positively that those relationships never change. I'm sure, over a series of years if weather patterns change, it could change. There...you know, there are no...I don't know that there's any way of predicting that very accurately, but I would think that those kinds of basic fundamental relationships would change very slowly and that it wouldn't be a matter of two or three years, but a matter of many years, before a court or those who were experts thought that you should do a different or new kind of study. It's not my time, Senator, or I'd give it to you.

SENATOR DIERKS: I will...I want to ask you a few more questions, Chris, too. My concern, of course, is of unfunded mandates. And that's where my concern was at the beginning of our discussion on LB 108, that we have a group of NRDs out there that are pretty well confined as to how many dollars they can assess for their existence and their function and their purpose. And if they get to the point where these things are so overwhelming, who's going to...I mean, I know you're saying that the Environmental Trust, but I think that might be conjecture on your part, and I'm...I think we are still looking at unfunded mandates. Now, when I talked to...I have a constituent up there that had some difficulties with this LUST Fund. He had an underground storage tank that was leaking. They drilled 31 holes for him up there on a little place that wasn't even an acre in size. It cost him over \$1,000 a hole. I can't believe that the cost for drilling wells into the aquifer would be less than that, and I'm not sure how far away they go to drill these holes, but I think there's a tremendous amount of knowledge that isn't available yet as to the way these waters move in that aquifer. And you can drill a hole 50 feet away from another one and find things that are not what you expected. So I think it's a really...we're in very uncharted ground here and I really