

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003 LB 619

one of the problems why...and the other impact on runoff and water is the drilling of the irrigation wells in those areas, which lowers the water table eventually, and then the springs don't flow. And all you have to do is point to Pumpkin Creek out in the Panhandle. But the same thing has happened in the Republican Basin. The springs have been...some of the springs have been dried up. There's less...the ground water level declines. There's less runoff.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: So that all impacts surface water projects.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I was just wondering if our zeal and drive to control runoff and control pollution, which I'm not disputing, won't in time, like over the next 20 years,...

SENATOR SCHROCK: It's already done it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that it's going to reduce the amount of water in our rivers,...

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's already happened.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...and it may have an impact. So just an interesting observation, as I read about this lawsuit that's being filed. Once we reduce our runoff to zero, which is apparently the goal, it just makes me wonder what the ripple effect will be downstream in the next 50 years. That's all I have. Thanks.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler, you're next. And this will be your third time on this amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schrock, if you would yield, I just wanted to engage in a little more conversation with you about this amendment, for one thing. Down in the paragraph beginning on lines 13 and through line 17, it indicates that payments may be made for a number of purposes. And then it indicates the general purpose, "to develop voluntary incentive-based practices