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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SCHROCK: There's other practices that can be used besides meters, Senator Beutler. This bill does not apply just to cost-sharing on meters. And I'm not even sure that the NRDs will use Soil and Water Conservation Fund money to cost-share on meters. Matter of fact, I'd almost guess they wouldn't. But this would open that option up to them should there be no other resources to use for a cost share on meters.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Senator, I'm just exploring this for the purpose of being sure that you can, in fact, use them for the purpose that...all the purposes that you would want. And I have some problem with the way this is worded, if it's only to be used for voluntary and not mandated practices. But, in any event, let me switch over to the idea of incentive-based practices. You know, incentive-based practices, in the usage that we've come to understand in this area, almost always means taxpayer payments through a political subdivision of some type to private owners to get them to do something that we believe they should do whether or not we paid them to do it. Is that fairly accurate?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's a fair statement.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And in times when we have plenty of money, it makes more sense to me to pay people to do what they should do anyway. But when we have no money and we're \$700 million in debt,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...is it time to rethink the extent of incentive-based practices in order to get people to do what they should do without being paid by government to do it?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, I've pushed my light. If I'm next, we can continue this conversation on my time. Let me give you an example of what I deal with out there when I go to my communities and talk. Hildreth is a community in my area, and they are on the northern end of the control area for new wells. In other words, if you're from Hildreth, you can't drill a new irrigation well. And there are some people that are mad about