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FLOOR DEBATE

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regardless of which side of the county line you're on...and by the way, southern Kearney County is in the Republican Basin. It was just, in the settlement with Kansas, that's where the line was drawn, because it was felt like it was far enough away that it was probably not impacting flows of the river. And this line may be moved five years from now. But, at any rate, if we're going to comply with our terms of settlement, and if we have to meter, I'd be in favor of letting the NRDs decide if this is an appropriate way to use Soil and Water Conservation Fund money. And there's not a lot there right now. But they're going to need information on how much water is being pumped. They're going to need...they're going to be checking their wells to find out what's happening to the water table. And in the future, they're going to determine whether the basin is over-appropriated and they're going to have to have controls, or they're going to have to determine...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...whether there is excess...

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schrock, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHROCK: If it's all right with Senator Beutler, we can continue this conversation on my time. It can be determined whether maybe more wells can be drilled and we have not used as much water as, in fact, the state of Kansas has alleged. And so we don't know where we're at. But hopefully this money can be used to determine whether we have under-appropriated the basin or over-appropriated the basin, and we can make sound decisions on water use in that basin in the future. And I think it was...I think it's an appropriate use of the Soil and Water Conservation Fund to do that. You can have some time, if you want.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, let me just ask you, is there any formula in your mind about the situation in the Republican Valley, and how much should come out of General Funds and how much should come out of private landowners' funds and how much out of the NRD funds?