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Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003 LB 619

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...and the Lower Republican and even the Middle Republican. The Upper Republican is managing a resource that is diminishing. In other words, their resource is being consumed, and some of that has never been recharged. And so they're managing a system, but eventually they're going to run out of water out there, I believe. They won't even be able to use water maybe 40-50 years from now for irrigation, because they will pump that dry, and it does not seem to be recharging. The Lower Republican River Basin, for some unforeseen reason...and hopefully some of this money can be used...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...to tell us why this is taking place...does not seem to be having a decline in their water table. And so the Lower Republican NRD is a totally different situation than the Upper Republican NRD. And the people that are pumping water have not seen a decline in their water table, and yet they're being asked to put on meters and to have a moratorium on wells. And don't get me wrong. I think that's probably appropriate, considering the circumstances. But they're being asked to follow all these regulations, and they're saying, our resource is still plentiful, it's not been declining, why is this imposed on us and these extra expenses; you know, being as you did cost-share on the alluvial portion of the river, maybe it's our turn to have a little help also. And I don't need to tell you this is a bad economic time for agriculture either. So you may respond...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time. Senator Schrock, your light is next. And this will be your third time, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, basically speaking, the Upper Republican Basin has imposed these regulations on "themselves" with no outside pressure from the state, no outside pressure from interstate lawsuits. The Middle Republican and Lower Republican have imposed restrictions because of pressure by the state, because of the pressure of the lawsuit. And that, I think, is a big difference. And if you look at the water tables in the Middle and Lower Republican, we have not seen much