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lowering or diminishing of the water supply that we have seen in the Upper Republican. So there is a difference between the Upper Republican. And you've stated it well. They did it on their own because they want to preserve what they have for as long as they can, and unregulated pumping was just going to make their economy slip a lot faster to a dryland economy. I hope that helps. If you have a response, use some of my time. Or, I don't know whose time we're on.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler, I think Senator Schrock is offering you his time, if you'd like.

SENATOR BEUTLER: How much time is left, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BROMM: There are 3 minutes and 50 seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Schrock. From my perspective, both of the distinctions that you make are entirely artificial. The first distinction that you made was that the Upper Republican didn't have enough water, and that somehow instituting a management system for that purpose was a distinction to be noted. But from the perspective...from my perspective, the Lower Republican also instituted...is having to institute this management system because it doesn't have enough water. And the "enough water" that it doesn't have is that portion of the water that is ours by virtue of a compact, and they don't have enough of it. It's basically the same situation. Now, the other distinction that you make is that somehow the state of Nebraska did this to them. Well, what would those landowners have chosen? That the state of Nebraska did not respond to the lawsuit from Kansas? We didn't...the state of Nebraska didn't do it to them. The state of Nebraska spent several millions of dollars defending the interest of the Republican Valley irrigators, just as they should have, in my opinion. But that doesn't make us guilty of some kind of complicity which then dictates that we move from a local system of taking care of these matters to a state-funded system of taking care of these matters. And maybe therein lies the difference between how we view it. But I'm just concerned about this precedent, because not only is it a precedent that may involve millions of dollars with respect to the Republican