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Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003 LB 619

envison, when this bill came up, that they would use the money for meters. I don't see anything in here prohibiting it, but the fund is woefully inadequate for that purposes, and I would doubt they would use that. I would more envision them to use it to implement the studies on LB 108, find out what's going on with the water underneath their land, and what the resource is. And then they would determine whether controls need to be put on wells, whether pumping needs to be limited, whether they can in fact allow new irrigation wells to be drilled or not. So that would be more of my vision of what might happen to this money--find out what's going on underneath the ground. We can see where the water goes on the surface. We have no idea what's happening underground. We have a lot of irrigation wells. And you've seen the maps that say, well, this area of the state there's a decline,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...this area there's an increase. And so that's what I would envision the money would be used for. But I don't envision anybody asking for a change in the way the money is redistributed, or distributed. I don't...I'm not asking for that change. Nobody else is. But this is just one more option, like the option we gave to the NRDs, because the Papio asked that the money could be used for the curtailing of runoff at construction sites. They did ask for another use last year which we denied, and that was for minimum tillage practices. And we decided that was a practice we did not want to cost-share in, and that they should be doing that anyway and we shouldn't pay them for that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You know, it occurred to me, Senator, that with regard to this particular amendment, which anticipates, as part of a total solution, the use of Soil and Water Conservation Funds for...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I would yield my time to Senator Beutler, if he wishes it.