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LB 962

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening. Senator Schrock, were those the committee amendments that you were discussing also, or do you want to open on committee amendments?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That was...that would pertain to committee amendments,...

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...Mr. President.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Mr. Clerk, are there amendments to the committee amendments? The first speaker on the committee amendments is Senator Stuhr. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I would just like to take a few minutes and talk a little bit about the structure of the Water Policy Task Force and how it resulted in LB 962. As Senator Schrock stated, he and I were members of that task force, but there were also 49 members that served on this task force and they were for...and they were from various walks of life. They represented the natural resource districts, the power industry, municipalities, agriculture, recreation, environmental interests. There were three members at large; irrigators, about 20 that represented both surface water and ground water irrigators; and also Dave Cookson from the Attorney General's Office, who provided much assistance and help in the writing of the bill; also Jim Cook, who is the legal assistant, legal counsel to the Department of Natural Resources; also Ann Bleed and Jody Gittins, who has reread and read this bill many times. So you can see that there were a large number of people involved. It was work that took a span of over 18 months. I believe that there were 8, actually, task force meetings, and about 18 executive committee meetings. There were also then subcommittees that met and worked on various issues. So I think, I guess, I personally had never seen a more dedicated group of people who were willing to sacrifice their