

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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absolutely necessary to start implementing the...this, this piece of legislation, because we need to know what the hydrology of the water is underneath the land that's being managed, we need to know what the water tables are doing, we need to set up models, and that's going to be a function of the Department of Natural Resources. I wish life was simpler, but the crux of the matter is irrigation is terribly important to agriculture in this state. We're a major producer of ag products and we're the second-largest irrigated state in the nation. We're the third-largest exporter of ag products of all the states in the nation, and water is extremely important. And if we don't have water and we don't have the proper use of it, you'll see land values plummet. Then you'll see our rural areas really in big trouble. So it's all tied together. It is part of our budget. But certainly the survival of this state and the agricultural portion of it depends greatly on what happens to irrigated agriculture. So your concerns are legitimate. I wish we could do it without money, but I don't...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Time.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...think we can do a proper job without the money.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Chambers, your light is on next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I want to divide the question.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Division of the question has been asked for. Senator Chambers, would you approach the Clerk's desk?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Cautiously.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Schrock, would you also come up? Chair has determined that it is divisible. We are going to divide that into two parts. The first part will be Section 1 through 10; and the second Section 11 and 12. Is that right, Mr. Clerk? All right, 1 through 10, plus 12 is the first amendment. All right. Senator Schrock, do you have any additional comments you wanted to make about this division?