

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 2, 2004

LB 962

allotted could be to the point that it will curtail advantageous crop production.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could it be curtailed to such an extent that some people will go out of business?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I don't think so. And that's certainly not the intent of the bill. I think even in cases where they have to regulate, there will be enough water provided that they can grow viable crops. But they might have to change the way their farming practices are going.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: On the whole, however, this bill would benefit irrigators more than it would be a detriment to them. Would you agree?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Not necessarily. I view this as a bill that's going to make sure we have an adequate water supply for future uses for the next generation, and the generation to follow that. We don't want to deplete our water resource to the extent that it will curtail beneficial use of water in the future. And that's what this is all about. You know, for the record, we are being a lot more efficient and applying less water than we used to. And that's the advantage of this center-pivot, which is the popular way to irrigate. It doesn't take as much water, because it's done uniformly and it's done efficiently.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, did you hear a question or two from Senator Janssen addressed to Senator Jones as to whether or not his children could rear the same number of children on the land that he and his siblings were reared on, and Senator Jones' answer was to the effect, no, no way?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I disagree with Senator Jones. If he would sell off his cattle herd and start a chicken ranch, he could probably survive out there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laugh) And what I was going to say, it could be that Senator Jones' children eat more than he and his siblings ate.