

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

March 2, 2004

LB 962

And it does...it can make the difference between your bottom line, and it can make the difference between making a profit and also taking a loss. So to local governments, it also provides a larger tax base or a smaller one. And to local communities, it might make the difference between thriving and dying. So water is an important resource for our state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schrock, on the Chambers amendment to FA1502.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, I almost forgot why I turned my light on but then I remembered. I'd like to have you vote for this Chamber amendment, so...for Mr...for Senator Chambers' amendment. I almost forgot. I talk about Chamber. I sometimes should talk about the hall here, too, but this time I mean the esteemed senator from Omaha. Let's vote for this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I haven't got into this discussion on this part of the amendment because it's mostly on surface water on this area here. And out in the western end of the state, what surface water we have usually comes in from Wyoming, so it's a little bit more closely controlled from the other state, so it isn't like it is when you get down below Lake McConaughy. I think we have to consider when you're using surface water for irrigation how much of it we're going to use out of Lake McConaughy and are we going to drain the lake or what are we...what's the status on the fishery and what's going to be done about the irrigation out of Lake McConaughy. Anyplace I've seen, I've never noticed where that's been addressed that much, but I think it's something of a concern. It is a multimillion dollar source of revenue for the people in that area, not necessarily the irrigation part, but the tourism and the fishery that goes with the Big Mac lake. These are questions that I think has to be decided. When we increase our land for...value of our land by using water on it, I'm sure it's...it all helps in the county level and the local level. But you got to remember, by doing that, we are exporting our water to do it. I think all of these things have to be considered. I will certainly support this