

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

March 2, 2004

LB 962

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. What is the provision for mediation as it's provided here? The Governor selects the mediator and arranges for the alternative dispute resolution process, arranges for participation of one additional person who is knowledgeable on scientific and policy issues related to the mediation. Why did the board see that as so important? I mean, the mediator, himself or herself, doesn't have to be knowledgeable in the area?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Because the whole idea is to get the parties together and exchange their ideas, so a mediator can do that with anybody regardless of the area, is that the idea?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That would be correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Is it thought that the parties themselves are not knowledgeable about their issues, or why would there be another person brought into the process?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I suppose to facilitate an agreement. The facilitator we had for the water policy task force probably should have done a good job if they weren't knowledgeable about water, but in this case, our facilitator was. But you don't necessarily need to be an expert on the issue to be a good facilitator, I would presume.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But in the interwater agreement, the board shall consist...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of five members, but what experts are required there?

SENATOR SCHROCK: On this five-member board? We're still on the five-member board?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah.