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LB 962

SENATOR CHAMBERS: One is though this alternative procedure, where they talk and try to arrive at an agreement, and if they don't then it goes to that Water Review Board.

SENATOR SCHROCK: All right. All right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This, the one that I'm talking about, even if an agreement is reached, is not binding on anybody. So we could still wind up with a situation where the Water Review Board would have to be called into action. What I'm asking is, if we eliminated that alternative dispute resolution activity from the bill, how would that harm the bill substantially, if you're able to answer at this time?

SENATOR SCHROCK: You would want to eliminate the alternative dispute resolution and go straight to the Water Review Board?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm asking, if that were done, how would it harm the bill or what the bill is trying to do?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, my perception is you're eliminating a viable step towards resolving an issue, and I don't think that's a costly step we're talking about either. And so I...just on the surface, I would probably say I don't think that would be a wise thing to do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, this operation, if there has not been an agreement on an integrated management plan on or before the 270 days prior to the deadline, then I guess this alternative process would come into operation. How is it of value, if whatever it arrives at is not binding on anybody?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay. Senator Chambers, you may recall a few years ago LES, Lincoln Electric System, and Norris Public Power were at each other's throat constantly, and they brought bills and they brought bills and they brought bills. Well, they went to mediation, nonbinding mediation, and we haven't heard from them since. They agreed to work out their problems, they're getting along fine now, we didn't have to pass any legislation. And I think mediation is a very valuable tool. And you, as