

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

March 3, 2004

LB 962

something like this for a framework to resolve those issues, I think we're going to see a lot more litigation in this state.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: These issues, when they reach the dispute level, would seem, from my position, to be fairly serious and difficult to resolve. Would that be true?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the two parties--and I'm just going to make it two. I know that it could spread out and involve others, but let's say just two entities so it's easy for me to keep my question clear. They are in strong disagreement, because if they were not, they could talk it out between themselves. It's reached a point where they cannot settle it themselves. This is perhaps going to prevent litigation, so that's off the table, although it could ultimately arrive at that point. Why should we believe that this system is going to work, when if the two sides go through this process and one becomes worn down and says, okay, I agree, then the very next day says, no, I disagree, all bets are off, this is not going to work, I don't want to talk anymore? Then they have to go to the Water Review Board, wouldn't they?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, the dispute you're talking about is when the Department of Natural Resources says something needs to be done, and the natural resource district says, we don't believe that needs to be done, we believe something else needs to be done. I believe mediation could be very valuable there. I think it's a tool we need to leave in the process.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why do we need the Water Review Board?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Because if...because there's always a chance that mediation will fail. But I believe mediation in most cases will succeed. And I can only cite the case between Lincoln Electric System and Norris Public Power, where mediation succeeded. Now...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We don't know that...whether it did or not. There's a little poem...and I'm not going to say the whole