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LB 962

approve the appropriation, so I'm a little puzzled then by what you're saying. But if that's...if that's in the amendment then maybe a correction should be made.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, are you completed?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I am done.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Well, your light is next. Did you wish to use that, or you're yielding? After Senator Schrock, Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Got to get my thinking cap where I was going here. I support LB 962 and I guess we were talking about the \$2.5 million and, to me, as of now it is in our status, be that somewhat convoluted at this point because of Friday's bombshell. But to me, I've come down on the fact that water happens to be pretty important to life in this state and probably I'm going to say some things that may not be popular in some areas, but one of the reasons I see that we need LB 962 is because of the 3 percent water that goes to municipalities and industrial use in the state. I see that we have to get a handle on what's going on all over this state, because water supply, ultimately, eventually, is, could be, has been, will be, whatever you want to look at it, is important to all Nebraska, and the municipalities, Lincoln and Omaha, are just as much...should have just as much interest in this bill as anyone else. How irrigators use their water, how agriculture uses their water is also important to the municipalities that depend on the well fields, particularly Grand Island, Fremont, Lincoln, and Omaha. And I'm kind of disheartened here to try to separate that out, because I don't think you can separate out our water supply in the state over time, whether it stays dry or whether it stays...or if it stays wet it probably isn't the issue. But this water is...generally moves from west to east across the state, as I understand it. I'm not a geologist and I didn't have time to bone up on all the things, but to me, the \$2.5 million is a legitimate General Fund expenditure. And