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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 962

and that is to prevent. Back in the 1970s, in Texas, around Lubbock, Texas, the aquifer fell about an average...their water level fell at about an average of 5 feet per year, and in parts of Kansas and the Texas Panhandle it declined 100 feet or more. It quotes someone that is living in New Mexico, that when we moved here in 1956, we had 60 feet of water. We now have only 10 feet left. Basically, what we are trying to do, as we've said many times, is be proactive, and we must have funding to base these scientific data...must have scientific data to base our decisions. And that's why funding is critical. And I have to add that agriculture is different than other industries. Again, we'd like to say we cannot pass on those costs.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: We do not set our price and pass it on to the consumer. We are given a price and then it is up to us to decide, do we want to sell today or sell tomorrow for what that price is offered? So we're not able to pass those fees on. And I believe...you wonder why, as was stated earlier, why our farms and ranches are becoming larger, and that's because our profit margin continues to get smaller each year. With that, again, I just say that funding is critical. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schrock, on the Chambers amendment, FA1520, to FA1502 to LB 962.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Mines, if I could have your attention.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Yes, sir.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I'm often asked by my constituents, and a lot of them are farmers, and I enjoy going to Hildreth, Nebraska, and there for about an hour and a half I have 20 farmers just grill me real good. And they don't understand why we do what we do. Then, at the end of that hour and a half, they thank me for being there and they're glad I bought rolls and will you come again and, you know, we had a good time. Meanwhile, they've