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with respect to the existing ground water users, that you can have more users, but every time you do that the existing users get just a little bit less water, right,...

SENATOR SCHROCK: That would be correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...instead of cutting people off entirely?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Why, at this point in time in our history, are we making that shift with regard to the theory of ground water, as opposed to letting there be new wells but letting all wells take less water? Maybe there's some practical reasons for that that you would like to expound on.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yeah, I think the practical reasons there, Senator Beutler, as you diminish the number of inches that can be pumped, the amount that can be pumped, then you diminish the economic viability of those systems. And they are expensive. And so if you get to a point where you have too many irrigation wells and the limitation on the water is ratcheted down with every irrigation well, pretty soon none of them become economically viable. And so I think that's the reason we have to...and, you know, I have farmers out there telling me that's not fair, that I have had a well on my land for 100 years,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...and now you're denying me the right to pump, when my neighbor, who's pumped for 40-50 years, or just put in a new one, has a water right. And I would agree with them. But then, I also say life isn't fair. So at some point in time, the resource is not going to support any more irrigation. And that's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So now we're...some place is overappropriated, so some people aren't going to have their protect...their investments protected, unless we pay them off. But you're...it's almost as if you're saying, in a historic sense, we should have done first in time, first in right with ground