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LB 962

have brought suits against the state of Nebraska for the purpose of seeking damages, if you will. They don't believe we went far enough in '96. That's their opinion. The other side says, no, no, no, we're fine; we've got a process in place. Regardless of what side you come down on, the water issues that we face are not going to get any easier, they're not going to go away, and it's not only going to be up to us to make that determination. As we look at what is available or what potential impact other decisions may have on the state of Nebraska in regards to cooperative agreements, in regards to federal law that impacts the streamflows that we face in the state of Nebraska,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...there are a lot of issues that are coming to the head right now. And it just so happens that we're in the middle of probably one of the greatest droughts that we've seen in western Nebraska in quite some time, so we're interested in what's going on with LB 962. I'm hopeful that my urban colleagues who live downstream from us recognize that we're all in this together. If that water doesn't flow downstream, there's no water for eastern Nebraska either. Now some of you may get your water out of the Missouri River, but that water comes from somewhere else. And for us to stand on the floor and say that this isn't important, or this doesn't need to be done, or we shouldn't be looking at this may be true in part. Maybe we should have done this 20 years ago. We didn't have the political will to do it. We did part of it ten years ago. But I think what we are looking at is, how do we make that next step? How do we give those who are responsible for determining how to create a sustainable system in the state of Nebraska the tools they need to make that happen?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR ERDMAN: We have to be part of that discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Baker and Beutler. Senator Kremer.