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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 962

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...we have designed systems that leak intentionally. When the water comes through my farm, when I take water out of that head gate and apply it to my field, most of that water does end up in somebody else's field. And it goes down through the system, and it fills the requirements of irrigation districts below me, and eventually that ends up in McConaughy. And approximately 70 percent of the water that crosses the Wyoming border on any given year ends up in McConaughy. And if you want to know why the volume of Lake McConaughy is 624,000 acre-feet right now, you can go back and look at how much water was coming across the Wyoming border versus how much is there. Because not only are we in western Nebraska dependent upon our own resources; we're dependent upon what happens upstream of us. Just like Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte is dependent upon those of us upstream of them to act responsible. We need to move in that direction. I think we have a balanced approach, and I think we need to continue to work through this to figure out a way to make the provisions of LB 962 possible. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Beutler, on FA1524.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schrock, I wanted to turn to a page in the bill, page 60 of the bill, in Section 36 again, if we could look at that public water supply section. And again, this is just a part that I want to understand better. As I was reading through it again, I wasn't sure how this related to the intent of the section. But for those of you who haven't followed this particular section, it has to do with protecting the well field of a potential public water system, a city water system, for example. And it provides for a key document called a notice of intent. And once you file that document, then it precludes certain things, and has the effect, as long as that document is filed and not rejected, it has the effect of protecting the new well field to the extent that it might be encroached upon in the future by other water wells, irrigation wells, for example. And it provides, essentially, that they will be protected up to 1,000 feet from the land that constitutes the well field, all