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SENATOR CUDABACK: It is, Senator. I'm sorry about that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute, seven goes quickly. Senator Preister, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Since Senator Beutler was in the middle of what he was saying, I would yield my time to him so that he may continue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Preister, thank you very much. Senator Jones, let me engage in a dialog with you. I mean, you've been a person in this Legislature who time and time again has voted against big government and overregulation and that sort of thing. And you indicated that this bill wasn't even necessary until a couple of years ago when the drought came. Let me ask you this. What do you think is the benefit of enacting this enormous bureaucratic structure and paying millions of dollars to regulate, as opposed to just letting folks in your area, when they have a conflict, or they think they have a conflict, just either iron it out among themselves or go into the local district court and settle the matter?

SENATOR JONES: Well, you brought out something good there, because you get in the Upper Republican River, and the NRDs was handling it on their own out there, you know, as far as the drilling the wells and cutting down on the number they drill because they was running out of water underground. And the NRDs was taking care of it there. And then on a couple on top of it here, like I said earlier, the drought, three or four years of drought hit the western part of the state, and then that just put everybody in a frenzy as to what's going to happen if they don't get no more water in McConaughy. So then it moved over on the other side of the state, and that supplies the water down here. So that's what I was concerned about there. And I guess that's the reason I'm supporting this here, hopefully that we