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the dollars that we've spent just since I've been here is enormous. Whether some of these could be precluded I'm not sure. But the point is, this is an opportunity to do that, and \$2.5 million at this point, perhaps 4.7 later probably, this is going to be an unknowing issue, but I can't think of another thing more basic to Nebraska than water. The other thing I want to take into account that I think we ought to be considering is, as the western states become more and more water short, more water shortages, where are they going to look for that water? Maybe under our present...I'm not sure--Senator Schrock would have more to say about this than I do--but I'm not sure we're adequately fortified at this point to prevent water going out of state and in the future, or have the facts, what a court would decide. We need this information, much more detailed information. This bill provides that. But mostly I want to emphasize the fact that \$2.5 million General Fund, which I believe it should do, or there is an alternative perhaps Environmental Trust Fund, is the fact that is for everybody in Nebraska, and we're going to need these kinds of things as we move forward, because the alternative is going to be very expensive litigation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I'd like to have the body focus on a little issue here. The task force was created by this body two years ago, when we were not in a drought, when Lake McConaughy had a pretty good supply. It wasn't full, but it had a pretty good supply. These recommendations aren't made because of the drought. But there is an urgency probably because of the drought. But we selected 49 members to serve on that task force. Everybody knew the makeup. The task force made their recommendations. And I don't mind some modifications and some change. But we said two years ago, we're going to select 49 people. The municipalities were represented, the environmental community was represented, the recreation community was represented, the irrigators were represented, the NRDs were represented, there were at-large people, the AG's Office was represented, the Department of Natural Resources was represented, and every member in this body had an opportunity to