

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004 LB 962

bills. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 962, a bill on General File, introduced by the Natural Resources Committee. (Read title.) The bill has been discussed on the floor. A series of amendments...or committee amendments were offered. There was a division requested. The division was granted. The Legislature has discussed the first division, FA1502. There have been a series of amendments adopted to that division. Currently, Mr. President, FA1502, which is the first component of the committee amendments, is pending. I have nothing further pending to that committee amendment at this time. (Legislative Journal page 817.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schrock, it's been a while since we discussed this bill. Would you give us a brief review of what the bill and committee amendments do?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, just some brief comments about LB 962. Two years ago, a bill was passed, LB 1003, that created a Water Task Force, 49 people concerned about water issues in the state of Nebraska. And I would acknowledge that agriculture was healthily represented on that. But the municipalities, the environmental community, the recreation people, were also involved in that. The NRDs, the natural resources districts, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Attorney General's Office, had a 49-member task force that came to the...came together and unanimously agreed upon what should be done for state water policy. And those recommendations are implemented in LB 962. It's a proactive approach to managing the state's resources. When this task force was created, no one knew we were going to have two years of dry weather, drought, as you might say. And so I think probably from that standpoint it has created some urgency. I think it's very prudent for the Legislature to try and move this bill this year. It is my priority bill. It advanced out of committee unanimously. And a lot of people have worked on it, and we've had a good discussion on it, and I expect that to continue this morning. With that, I'll give the rest of the time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. We will now go