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FLOOR DEBATE

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you can save at this particular point is a plus. Environmental Trust Fund, I think, is a logical source for cash funds to do this at this point. You may disagree, and you can have the fight on the floor. But if you go to General Funds, it's another \$2.5 million. Senator Beutler wants to do the fee schedule. Senator Schrock has not wanted to do the fee schedule. I'll let him speak for himself. But that's the issue. But I...to me, we can still advance LB 962 and do this fight on General File...or on Select File, I mean. And with that, I'll turn the rest of my time over to Senator Schrock, if he wants.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you have about a minute and a half.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all, I don't envision state resources being used to buy up acres and convert them from irrigated to dryland ground. And if the task force or the recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources do that, I'm going to be against it, because you just can't get very far doing that. The issue of fees, as far as Senator Bourne and Senator Beutler is concerned, certainly the farmers do fear that they're going to put another tax on them, and a tax on irrigation is something they fear. The tax burden for agriculture in this state is real, it's burdensome, and it's large. If there is to be a fee tax on irrigation wells, I think the money should be designated for buying up...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...irrigated land, converting it to dryland, and I think it should be a resource that would be used by the natural resources districts and implemented by them. And I think then that would be an appropriate use for fees to...for irrigation work within their district. Certainly I don't think fees are appropriate statewide. And if there are to be fees on irrigation wells, I think it should be a natural resources district decision. And I think that would be the appropriate place to get revenue if the natural resources districts is over-appropriated and wants to use that money to dry up wells.