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Now that's just my vision of what might take place. I'm adamantly opposed to a fee on irrigation wells in the state. As far as the \$1.5 million, \$2 million, whatever, we do need some money to kick-start this program, for hydrology studies, and we need it immediately.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein and Senator Schrock. On with discussion of FA1513, Senator Louden, followed by Senator Jones and others.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, think that the ideal place to find funding for this Water Task Force and this water bill is from the Environmental Trust Fund. Just a few days ago, we were discussing hot and heavy about taking 2 million bucks out of that thing and putting it in the State Fair. So what do you want, to drink water, or do you want to have a State Fair, I guess? I think this is environmental, and it's certainly an important issue now to fund this water policy. This is something that has to be done. Right now they draw the line around 100th Meridian, I guess, when you say Elm Creek west is over-appropriated. So out there there's going to be more restrictions on water than there is to the east. But you want to remember that the water that comes for the eastern part of Nebraska all originates out there in the western end of the state, comes out of the Sandhills and those places like this. At the present time, the Environmental Trust Fund is purchasing land, purchasing quite a lot of land. They buy these ranches for a million bucks apiece or so. So I don't see where \$2 million a year for the next two to three years by 2006 is going to put any kind of a stress or detriment on the Environmental Trust Fund. It seems to have been doing quite well, and I think it's a good place to fund it. I think by then we'll be able to get a handle on the cost of this water policy, and by then we'll have a way to decide what the funding has to be. Perhaps the General Fund can be used in the future. But at the present time, you're going to need the money to do something with, and I think it's a better way of getting the money from the Environmental Trust Fund than trying to scrounge someplace else. I've questioned at times whether the Environmental Trust Fund money has been used for the best uses. When we have plenty