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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, agree that the Environmental Trust has done a great deal in the state of Nebraska, and will continue to do so. But the thing is, I don't...can't think of anything closer to the environment than our water resources. So as far as I'm concerned, this is the proper place to get the money, is from the Environmental Trust. It fits right in to what they are for, is to protect the environment. And the water is our biggest asset in the state of Nebraska, and very necessary for all of our survival, especially in the farming communities. As far as fees are concerned, when I was in the county board up in Dakota County, irrigated land is assessed higher than dry land, which...because it produces more. But on top of that, the irrigation equipment that is doing the irrigating is also taxed. So they are already being...as far as I'm concerned, the irrigators are already being taxed properly. Their land is taxed at a greater amount, and they're also taxed on the equipment that's putting the water in the ground. So as far as I'm concerned, this is where the money should come from. It should come from the Environmental Trust Fund. And they'll still have money left over to do other projects. But this is so important. And maybe down in the future, as times improve, and they will, then we could go back to General Funds. But for now, in the situation we're in, and also serving in Appropriations Committee, there just...the dollars just are not there. So that's...as far as I'm concerned, I think we can go ahead and go on to Select File, so...rather...delay this. But when it comes time to the funding part of it, this is where we should stay. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Would Senator Schrock yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, will you yield?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Say, if you look at your computer there, there's still a number of amendments