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SENATOR BOURNE: I'm struggling as to what to do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Preister, followed by Senators Schrock, Jones, Janssen, and Stuhr. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President. I appreciate the comments that Senator Bourne has been addressing to us. Certainly the budget is an issue. Certainly how we fund this bill is important. That's really the heart. I haven't heard too much comment about the rest of the bill. I think it's drafted very well. I think Jody Gittins, the committee counsel, deserves tremendous amount of credit for really restructuring all of our water law, coordinating it, putting it together, working with so many people. She did an exceptional job, with other people's input. The bill, I think, is in good shape. I haven't heard any real comments about that. I haven't heard many comments that there are provisions in it that people have problems with. It seems we've essentially focused on, yes, it's good, but how do we pay for it? The old "show me the money, folks" comes back again, and that's where we're going to be probably for the rest of the session. In terms of how I view it, the bill I can support. How we fund it is an issue for me. It seems at this point that the best compromise is to take some of the money from the General Fund, although that pains me. There's going to be other things that are going to need to be cut, and I don't want to raise taxes. I haven't supported tax increases before, and I don't want to do it now. So taking General Fund money is a problem for me. I guess I have to weigh what the most important things are, and establish my priorities. Yes, water is important. Is it going to be more important than some of the other things? I've got to weigh that. I've got to make that decision. Taking part of the money from the General Fund now, that's part of what I think is at least an agreement between Senator Beutler and Senator Schrock. Part of the money from the Environmental Trust, that pains me also. If it's specifically earmarked as Senator Wehrbein wants to do, I cannot support that. If the process is one of applying for the grant, being in line for the grant like everybody else, competing fairly and equally, even though they have changed their