

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 1, 2005

LB 32

municipalities' water needs are met. And as you know, agriculture uses most of the water in this state. Depending on how you figure, but I've heard figures of 91 percent for irrigation and 2 percent for livestock. That leaves only 7 percent for the rest of the state. So agriculture uses a lot of water. It's my perception that there is no one on the task force that wants a municipality to be short of water, especially if they're in an area where they can use it for economic development.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The thing that I was getting to, Senator, is this, that there is a close relationship between municipalities here and the rural areas, in terms of cooperation on the use of water. Not only that, but are not the municipalities, the people in municipalities, are not...they're paying these taxes, too, that deal with all of this water regulation that's going on, are they not?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And they're paying increased taxes now, because of the increased...the necessity of increased regulation. Would that be correct?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct. I would tell you, in my area of the state, the bulk of the taxes is still paid by ag land. But the municipality contribution is not insignificant.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And do you have a bill in your committee that would purport to make the NRD districts more or less one person, one vote, so that everybody is roughly represented in this equation?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes we do, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: And I will tell you, at the present time, it's quite poorly drafted. And so we're going to work on that and come back to the committee with that proposal. I can't tell you right now that...there was a lot of opposition testimony at that