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money to the state of Kansas. It's as simple as that. If we don't act, we have a problem of major proportions. And so what I would like to do today is to ask you to engage on our first discussion of water this session. And I would like to do everything possible to encourage you to do everything possible to get water bills on the floor, to get a solution to the water problem this year, or at least to get a major hold on it. Because every year you do nothing, you're costing the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska a great, great deal of money. I want to start by reminding you of that old theory of the theory of the commons. You know, back in the old English towns they used to have some common pastures that everybody could use. And what happened, as the population grew, as there was increase...as there were increases in production, is that more and more individuals would put their cows on the commons, until at some point in time there wasn't enough grass on the commons for anybody's cow. And that illustrates a kind of problem that reoccurs from time to time and place to place in our society, and essentially, that's what is happening to water use today in the state of Nebraska. More and more people are putting their straws in the ground to use the water, and there's not enough water for everybody, so the amount of water that can be used by any particular individual declines, and may eventually decline below that amount of water necessary in a particular region to produce, for example, corn. Let's go back and talk about what the two basic fundamental principles of water law are, and why, if you follow those two principles, the state of Nebraska's taxpayers, the sales and income tax payers, should never be putting out any money, anytime, anywhere, to pay people not to use water rights. The first principle is called first in time, first in right, and it applies to that area of water where you're taking the water out of a river or out of a reservoir, surface water use. And we've had that law since the beginning of the state. It's enshrined in our constitution, and we have followed it faithfully from the beginning. And in times of drought or in times of the legal cutoff of water for whatever reason, the person who has the last right in time is the first one cut off from the use of water. And so it progresses, to the extent that you need to in order to effectuate a priority system. And the state has never, to my knowledge, ever paid anyone at the end of that line for not getting water in any