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Senator Beutler, I wondered if you might yield to a couple questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BROWN: One of the concerns that I have with this approach is that it treats individuals who have been attempting to be very careful with their water usage, irrigators who have attempted to be very careful, tried to do things to meet the compact in times of drought, the same as it treats irrigators who may not be doing anything to be compliant. How would you respond to that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, I'm not sure if I understand entirely the dimensions of your question. But first of all, I'm not saying that with respect to an individual farmer that anybody was doing anything wrong. But that's not the question to me. In the first in time, first in right system, down through the last hundred years, there have been farmers who have done nothing wrong, but they are at the end of the line in terms of the water supply, and that is simply the fact of life. We've never paid them. They did nothing wrong. We don't pay them. Likewise, with respect to ground water irrigators, by and large, as individuals, they have done nothing wrong, but they put wells in the ground under a certain set of rules that encompass a certain set of risks. And I'm going to talk here especially about those who came after 1998 and those who came after 2001. Those two sets of people were particularly speculative in doing what they did. And so if they win, they win; if they lose, they shouldn't be paid because they lost. Now, am I addressing your question? Are you looking at the amendment?

SENATOR BROWN: Somewhat, yes. But then the follow-up question would be, then respond to the issue that Senator Schrock raised, that it would appear that this will not do anything to address...or do very little to address the presenting issue. Now, it may be more global than that, in terms of how we manage future situations where there's a shortfall in a compact area; but in terms of what impact this is going to do on the presenting issue.