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FLOOR DEBATE

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he and Senator Schrock as to the primary issue. But I would just ask you to listen to what they're saying about what the water situation is, and then later I think we can come in with a proposal that hopefully will be broader, hopefully will be able to be more encompassing, and will truly deal with the water issue that we have in the state. With that, I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. On with discussion. Senator Baker, followed by Senators Preister, Stuthman, Beutler, Kopplin, and five others.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I, too,...second guy doesn't stand a chance here after Don...Senator Pederson. But I...we need this discussion. We need it badly in this body. And it is a more broad issue than just Republican River Basin. We're leading the way out in the Republican River Basin because of the compact settlement with Kansas and Colorado, so we're getting the publicity right now. But believe me, I hope you're listening, the next basin could be yours that we're going to be talking about. I remind the Repub...or, the Platte River Basin is overappropriated from Elm Creek, west. That's a major problem. So although we're talking about Republican River Basin issues today in this amendment, it's a more broad problem than just Republican River Basin. And I have to admit, mistakes were made, yes. Timing was bad. We're in the middle of a drought. Without that drought, normal precipitation the last few years, we wouldn't probably be talking about this, because some of the controls, the allotments that we have implemented via LB 962, they're out there, they've worked well. We have records now from at least the Upper and the Middle Republican that show we allotted...well, we know...we allotted 13.5 inches in the Upper Republican. There's been...as Senator Beutler's sheet shows, there's been seven new wells drilled in the Upper Republican in the last, I think, six or seven years, practically none. We used less than our allotments. We saved many, many thousands of acre-feet. We could have pumped 13.5 inches in the Upper. I think the figure was 11-something-or-other in the Upper. The Middle was allotted 13 inches per acre. We pumped 8.94, I believe, was the number there. All our wells are metered. We've made tremendous strides in what we've been doing. What