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frustrates me as a senator who represents that area is, we've made the effort, actually pumped a lot fewer acre-feet than we were allotted last year, and the response time from these lower pumping rates is going to lag a year or two, three, ten years before we see results. One of the other issues that we have addressed in the Republican, and somewhat in the Platte, is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, commonly called CREP. There's about 40,000 acres involved in that pipeline in the Republican River Basin either has been accepted or is going through the review process. Those are wells that have to be within two...was it two or two and a half miles, of the center of the stream, that are taking land out of production, irrigated production, for...in exchange for federal payments, and there's some small match in the state. But we've leveraged that small payment from the state greatly to access the federal payments. Those results are going to start kicking in as soon as next year. So we are making progress in simply retiring those. And Senator Pederson made a good point, we have to be able to sustain these cuts in water use. And it's not just a Republican River Basin issue, although that's what we're focused on now, I admit. It's not going to be just Republican River Basin. This is statewide...a statewide issue. And I know there are a number of districts and natural resource districts out there looking at well drilling moratoriums, some discussion of a statewide moratorium, and so on. So I would be glad to participate in the discussion and try and answer questions. If there's questions asked by senators from outside the basin, we will get the answers, specific answers. But we're making a herculean effort out there to reduce consumption. It's working, and we will start seeing results almost immediately on a small scale. And as the time goes on, they will be accumulated to where you can see some major reductions in water use and increased stream flows. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker. Further discussion on the Beutler amendment. Senator Preister, followed by Senator Stuthman and others.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I appreciate the work that's going into all of the ramifications of what happens with water and water shortages, particularly in