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frequently--and we can identify with this as legislators--in a thankless position and with very low pay. In fact, theirs is way lower than ours, so I think we can identify with them very well. I would hope that we would have support for the underlying bill, LB 32, and that most of us would have had some kind of contact with our NRD board members and know the positions that they serve, know the dedication that they provide, and certainly recognize that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...a small increase in the amount that they could receive in total, not an increase in their actual compensation for attending the meetings, but just the increase on the cap that limits the total amount that they can receive. And I thank Senator Schrock for raising the issue, for conducting the hearing, and for bringing the bill before us. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Further discussion, Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I think this amendment is really for discussion purposes, and in studying, you know, what it states in there, you know, that any wells that were drilled, you know, after January 1 of '01 would have to shut down as of January 1 of '07 if we continue to have this problem, the thing that I'm looking at is something that probably a lot of people don't realize what would happen. In these counties where this land was developed for irrigation, valuations went up on that property. Counties utilize that valuation for taxing purposes. And what do they do with that money? The counties run their counties, their schools. Just everything in the county is what property taxes are utilized for. So if this would go into effect, that no one that drilled those wells in the last several years could utilize those wells for the production of their crops, but what are we going to do...what's the county going to do as far as the valuation dollars on those acres? Because those acres will not be able to produce with no water as with water. So I think counties most generally are up against their lid limit. If you