

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 25, 2006 LB 32

already were in a precarious situation because of the drought and because of the Kansas settlement. I think there is a very real reason in all equity that these people should be treated, if not totally differently, at least somewhat differently. Going back to where we...you may recall we started the conversation yesterday with the theory of the commons and the general conceptual problem, and then talking about first in time, first in right on surface water, and correlative rights of everybody sharing equally in ground water. And I started into the conversation about what happened in 1998, and you may recall that we had a bill up before the Natural Resources in 1998 that basically indicated that there would be a moratorium on drilling in the Republican Valley from that point in time forward. It also required water meters throughout the Republican Basin. And that bill did not survive the Natural Resources Committee. But then I tried to show you on a chart, which I passed out to you again, what has happened since 1998 and people everywhere were put on notice that we are in a precarious position. And to remind you of the figures...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...again, from that point in time forward, almost just short of 800 wells were dug in the Republican Valley. Now, if you apply 12 inches of water from each of those nearly 800 wells, and if you multiply that, like say 140 acres, essentially, in terms of your long-term solution, by all accounts and figures I've seen you could solve most of your problem right there. That would mostly solve your problem in terms of the long-term problem. Now, I need to start in...that's one marker to keep in mind, please--1998, the proposed moratorium, the notice that went out...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...across the basin that there's a problem. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Further discussion? Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Kopplin.