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capitalistic society we don't stop things until it's too late. We're not that forward-looking. That's a mistake on our part, I guess. And it's the same way with the businesses. Small businesses move in; somebody comes in with a bigger filling station, he wipes out all the little ones and we say tough. And it looks like to me, since the NRDs had the local control, had a chance to control this and didn't, I honestly don't see how we can come in legally five years later and say, oh, by the way, maybe we made a mistake; we can't do it. It looks like to me it has to go forward from here and we're going to have to suffer the consequences. And I don't like looking at it this way, but I believe that that's the way we're going to have to look at it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Stuhr, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I didn't have an opportunity to speak on this subject yesterday and I did just want to say a few words in the fact that I do support the underlying bill. I think it's important that we do some compensation and updating for these members that do serve. I do have problems with Senator Beutler's amendment, which I am sure that he would probably expect, and I just wanted to say that I do believe the discussion has been good. We do need it. It is an issue that is vitally important to our entire state. I have served as a member of the Water Policy Task Force and Senator Schrock has been very involved also in that task force. I believe that we have brought together some good legislation in LB 962 and people now will say, well, we should have done this 10 years ago, or 15 years ago. Yes, it's easy to look back and say, well, we should have done this, or we should have done that, but I believe that Nebraskans are willing to make sacrifices. They are doing many things to conserve water in all areas, and water is vital to this entire state. It's unfortunate that Nebraska did sign the compact, the Republican River Compact, back in 1946 and that we are not changing and we cannot change anything in that compact. But what has stayed the same? Nothing stays the same. But in this area, when we look back and think, we didn't even have irrigation back in 1946, and now look at the technology and the development and the