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SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Brown, thank you. Legislature, I don't have much further to go here, but it's interesting, and I paid particular attention to the comments of Senator Wehrbein, because he's been around a long time and he's watched these things before. And I think he's quite correct in suggesting that if we went from the 1998 date and attempted to, for example, shut down all the wells after that date, that we may have legal difficulties in doing that. But that brings us to the next marker, the next important marker in the history of this matter, and that's a bill that was passed shortly after the moratorium bill came along, and that was a bill, I believe, Senator Schrock, was your bill, and came because he, too, wanted to recognize and to provide in law a mechanism that both announced the dangerousness of our situation and even attempted to discourage further well drilling by indicating that the district may establish different provisions for the restriction of water wells constructed after January 1, 2001. The Natural Resources Committee put this into law. Everybody who drilled a well, Senator Wehrbein, after January 1, 2001, was subject to a statute that said that the NRDs could treat them differently. That doesn't answer the second part of your point -- why would the state want to treat them differently--but I would say to you the message was given to the NRDs. The NRDs failed to stop the drilling and even to this day have failed to treat those people who drilled wells after January 1, 2002 (sic), any differently than anybody else, notwithstanding this statute. thrust of my amendment is to say local control has failed and we And so the need to get ahold of this situation and get it corrected. was not an impossible task. The people in the Upper Republican at the west end of the state have done brilliantly, and they've done it with far fewer water resources than anybody else in any of the other three NRDs. They have managed. courageously allocated, reallocated, dreamed up imaginative ways of sharing wells and sharing water. And, you know, not one year that I've been in this Legislature have I ever seen anybody from the Upper Republican down here asking for state money to bail They operated under the principle of correlative rights--everybody shares equally. They knew that was the statute we put in place. They knew how drought had to be handled. They just did it. They followed the Nike motto-- just do it. They didn't get themselves into trouble. And I don't