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FLOOR DEBATE

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know what they're thinking...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...about their brethren in the other NRDs that have failed so miserably in dealing with this situation. So, Senator Wehrbein, I would simply point out to you that there's one more piece here that I'd ask you to think about it--what it meant and what people should have taken from it, and what Senator Schrock certainly intended that they should understand from the enactment of that provision that allows the NRDs to treat differently those who drilled wells after January 1, 2001. Thank you.

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

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As I've stated before, I certainly support the underlying bill, LB 32, because I think the NRD people need to be compensated for what they do. At the present, in the last few years it's been very important work that they've done, so we need to have people that are willing to serve, and in order to get people willing to serve, we certainly need...they need to be compensated for, at least, their expenses. I agree with Senator Kopplin when he said if we give water from Harlan County Dam now, what do we have to give next year, and that's a question of whether that's just a short-term measure. If it continues to be dry, we would certainly still be behind next year. And as to Senator Beutler's amendment, I'm glad that he's brought this forward. This needed to be brought forwards for discussion in the Chamber. We've brought...and many viewpoints have come forward on what some of the people are thinking how this should be handled. I don't know as I can support his amendment, the way it was written. I feel that when you completely cut down the wells that were drilled after a certain date, that probably will have quite an adverse effect on the economy down there. I think there are better ways of doing it. I think there has to be some more water restrictions done, such as they've done on the Upper Republican. It can be done, we know that, so I think there are probably better ways. And I think as we work through