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FLOOR DEBATE

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the discussion and look this over, that...point out to the NRDs what needs to be done, again, I think this can be brought forward and there probably will be something that can be done long term. If you just shut the pumping down on these wells and you wait till 2007, it's...this is a short-term effect in...after 2007. Nobody knows for sure, if you shut those wells down, whether it would make any difference for the flow into the Republican River. There has to be some type of model and some type of work done in that area to decide which wells that would affect the flow into the river. In the present time, there's work being done, I think, along that line. Also at the present time we really don't know how much shortage we are going to have into the...for the Kansas...agreement with Kansas. So I think it was good for discussion. I would continue...I hope that we can continue to work on this and come up with a solution. I am optimistic that there are a way that it can be taken care of, and I think we can work our way out of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Preister and Stuthman. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, just to follow up, I want to indicate that if you look at the charts again, and this time don't go back to 1998 or the moratorium bill but just go back to 2001 and Senator Schrock's amendment suggesting that those who drill after 2001 will be treated differently, if those wells were not there, that's about 490 wells across the basin, times 12 inches, times 140 irrigated acres. You're talking about roughly 69,000 acre feet of water. Again, that's a huge portion of our problem. That's big. I'm not suggesting that this should be the only solution, but I am suggesting that this should be a part of the solution. And I think conservation fees should be part of the solution, I think the state should be part of the solution, but most of all I think there should be a solution. And Senator Kopplin I very much appreciate because I share the feeling that we ought to deal with this...while Senator Wehrbein is here, while Senator Schrock is here, while there are a lot of people who have an understanding of the issue. But for those of us, again, who are thinking foremost about the general taxpayer, the payer of