

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

January 25, 2006 LB 32

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Chambers amendment has been adopted. Mr. Clerk, anything further on the bill?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Open for discussion on the advancement of LB 32. There are no lights on. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, Senator Chambers, others who have joined in the discussion, hear me out for a little bit. The Lower Republican NRD Board did nothing wrong, and they have paid a heavy price for their action. They have the lowest allocation of water for their irrigators of any place in the state. If they had not have drilled those last 300 wells, they may not even be on allocation. Roger Patterson and Ann Bleed made sure those wells were accounted for and that they paid a price for it. They did pay a heavy price for it. The NRD board, even though I don't necessarily agree with their decision--I probably would have given the new wells two inches less--made the decision that they wanted to do the least amount of economic damage possible. And if you live in the Republican River Basin, you're very apprehensive about what the Legislature may do to water issues this year, because it is the economic lifeblood of that basin. And without water, that part of our state shrivels up and dries away. There's \$1.2 billion worth of valuation attributed to irrigation in the Republican River Basin. You take that out of the formula and we're going to send a lot more state aid out there. Ray Supalla with the university says irrigation adds \$4.5 billion to the economy of this state. Let's be real careful what we do on irrigation in this state, and if we do have to buy some water from some surface water irrigators in Harlan County and it's prudent to do so, Senator Chambers, I hear you, we better take a good look at it because it's going to be cheaper than paying Kansas. All right. Senator Chambers, Senator Beutler, I totally agree with your comments on our