

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 16, 2006 LB 32

get a situation straightened out that factually...that in fact simply needs a bit of discipline to the system. So that's all I wanted to say and I recognize that people have different opinions on this. And so I would leave the board open if anybody else wants to speak. If nobody else wants to speak, then we can move on right away.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Smith and Senator Schrock. Senator Chambers waives the opportunity. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I know I'll be criticized for perhaps being perceived as posturing, but I've learned a lot in the last two years on Natural Resources Committee and certainly the last eight almost complete years--thank you, Senator Chambers--in the Legislature, on taxes. I never thought I would be so concerned about taxes as I am now. But it's been interesting when we look at the water issue and the proposals that have been basically an increase in ag property taxes, irrigated land property taxes, when already there's an increase in property tax or a margin of property tax that is paid on irrigated land because it's more valuable. And when you look at the inherent unfairness of property taxes that are being paid by agriculture, I find it appalling that there would be yet an additional effort to increase taxes on agriculture. And I believe that's what Senator Beutler has been attempting to do. We all need water. We all consume water. And it's a difficult issue. But to rather arbitrarily place greater fees on the users does not get at the root of the problem. When you look at the diversity of agriculture across the state, and the mere diversity in irrigation across the state, why would we impose a flat fee on all irrigated land when the soil types are different, the precipitation is different, the flows are different? We have different basins from which to obtain the irrigation water. Raising those fees on agriculture, and I know you're going to criticize me for posturing, that is not the answer. And I think it is particularly unfair to agriculture. Thank you, Senator Chambers, and thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further