

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

March 16, 2006 LB 32

talking about these irrigators. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler, there are no further lights on. Recognize you to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I didn't intend to start all this. But I can see we're going to be in big trouble when the bill comes around. Nobody wants to put off a solution all on one sector or another. But I think it's a gross oversimplification to say this is being laid on agriculture in the sense that nobody proposed any sort of fee on the Republican Valley until their usages engendered the payments that had to be made to Kansas or the buying out of water so we could send it to Kansas so we didn't have to make payments to Kansas. But if you think about it clearly, when you put sales taxes, state sales taxes, into that kind of use, that's coming out of the pockets of farmers in Senator Janssen's district and ranchers in Senator Fischer's district and Senator Loudon's district. Ag is paying for that. It's a transfer from all the other areas, agricultural areas of the state, to the Republican Valley to make those payments. And Senator Smith's district, the district he has now would be paying for it. His concerns have broadened somewhat in recent times, but he should think about the people who are in the district that he represents now. Their sales taxes are going to the Republican Valley. So no one is suggesting one size fit all. I think there will be some interesting solutions proposed to you when we get to the real debate, and I hope you'll have an open ear towards them because no alternative has been proposed to you other than make these payments, large payments, out of General Funds continually. So I look forward to the debate, and I hope you do, too. And with that, I'll withdraw the motion, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Remind the members we are on Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, LB 32.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB 32 on Final Reading.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 32 pass?