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FLOOR DEBATE

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for storm water is an urban issue; water for...or money for irrigation issues, and I don't need to...I sometimes think my urban friends get tired of us farmers saying how important agriculture is. Well, irrigation adds \$4.5 billion annually to the economy of this state. It looks like we could spend a little money for those issues, considering we have a lot at stake here. The balance of our irrigation water is in limbo here. Some areas of the state are overappropriated; some, there's still room for expansion. But we should stand up and take notice, and we should try and find that balance. Unfortunately, we acted too late in a few areas of the state. So that's my attempt to strike a balance. I think the urban areas need the water, need the money for storm water, and matter of fact, I think it's just a pittance compared to what they may need in the future. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator. I do appreciate your effort for balances, except for the balance of my time here. (Laughter) And I want to start out this conversation first and foremost in saying that I know there are a lot of people in hard places on this particular bill and it involves a lot, and so I want you to know I'm approaching this in good faith, with a maximum effort to try to see balances in different ways, also. But let me ask you about...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...appropriations with respect to the storm water section of the bill. What were you intending to put into the A bill, \$5 million a year?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, and I've been told by the Chair of the Appropriations Committee that that's too much, so we're talking. That's all I can say.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And then with respect to that portion of the bill that deals with the grant program for NRDs, were you looking at \$5 million a year there, too?