

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2006 LB 1226

for that amendment.

CLERK: I'm sorry, Senator, the number again, please?

SENATOR BEUTLER: AM2936, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: AM2936. (Legislative Journal pages 1293-1295.)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

CLERK: Okay, I have it, Senator, thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: So ordered. Senator Beutler, to open on AM2936.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Baker, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that deals with the Republican Valley Basin, and I want to back up a little bit and be sure that this is seen in context. I recognize, as I think most of you recognize, that in the short term we're going to end up spending, putting a lot of General Fund money into solutions in the Republican Valley. We've put in already, a year ago, some significant additional money into the regulatory agency, we've put in \$2.7 million to buy water from the Bostwick, General Fund money. We've put in several more million dollars for additional modeling and additional regulation, to try to get good scientific information down there in that area and in other overappropriated areas, and there's probably going to be considerable more General Fund expense. But what I've been trying impress upon you is that we ought to put into place at least the beginnings of a long-term system that get us away from continual and reoccurring General Fund expenses. Some of the easements that we've participated in with the federal government were good programs, since the federal government paid almost all of it, but they were temporary in nature and in another ten years, you're going to have to spend more General Fund money to recreate those temporary easements, and then you're going to have to hope that the federal share on that is as good as it was last year, which may or may not be true, and probably will not be true. So what I want to suggest to you today is the idea of a contingency deposit fund, so that if and when Nebraska is determined to be out of compliance with the Republican River