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FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2006 LB 1226

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to this amendment. First of all, Senator Beutler did introduce a bill that went to the Natural Resources Committee that would have imposed a water tax. This is enough different that it probably wouldn't rise to the level where we'd say, this needs 30 votes to get out of committee, because we killed that bill unanimously. But this is enough different that I can say, it hasn't had a hearing. Now what has had a hearing and what has advanced is a levy increase for those NRDs in overappropriated basins, and Senator Louden, if you're listening, if I could exempt out everything but the Platte and the Republican River Basin, I would do that. But I can't, and that is supported by the irrigators. It is unanimously supported by the Water Policy Task Force. And yes, I think those funds could be used for the purposes Senator Beutler wants to use them. But I oppose this amendment, if for no other reason it hasn't had a proper hearing, and the bill that was dissimilar but you can still call it a water tax, and Senator Beutler had in front of the Natural Resources Committee, was unanimously killed. So I would ask that you would vote red on this, and I will not speak again.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, would you answer a couple of questions for me?

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Beutler, did I understand you right that this was just in the Republican River Basin; is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's correct.