

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

April 5, 2006

LB 1226

SENATOR SCHROCK: My understanding from counsel here is, this says we'll not spend any more money on water ever. And so you'll have to repeal this before you budget water for money (sic) in the future. I hope that clarifies...I hope I...that clarifies this issue.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. I think you're oversimplifying the answer, though. You said we'll never spend any more money on water in the future, and that's not true either. We're not going to spend any more General Fund, according to the amendment, on the storm water program or under the program that's offered under this bill; not on water, in general, ever. But you're right, to come back and fix this we'd have to change the law. Simply what Senator Langemeier is offering us is a point-in-time position of where this Legislature is. If you want to vote against it, vote against it. But don't think by voting against it you're guaranteeing money in the budget, because even if the Langemeier amendment is defeated and the Appropriations Committee brings a budget out here for the next biennium, and there's no money in it, we won't be violating the law. Let's talk about what's actually going on here. Let's not get up and give great speeches about what we think we can do; let's talk about reality. And the reality is, is that our water problems are not going away. And the solutions are not going to be hatched out of the group of 49 of us that are in here. It's going to be a result of the people across the state of Nebraska working together to solve them, and that includes the folks in the cities that have already bonded, that have already got state money specifically earmarked for them to do flood plains and other things. That is already being appropriated as direct allocations that bypasses our appropriations process. The city of Lincoln gets that money, and Omaha gets money. So let's be clear that we will spend money on water. The Langemeier amendment doesn't prohibit us from doing that. It simply gives us a snapshot in time of what this budget will provide, and allows us the opportunity to come back. Now, we have a number of bills on Final Reading that