

range of where we're covering.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, thank you. The...I guess my time is up.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator...

SENATOR VRTISKA: My real concern is that we've gotten to a place where the limited amount of water that there is, and probably it's going to get worse as time goes by, somehow it looks to me like we need to start addressing that issue and take care of it and not...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...not...not bury our head in the sand because all of the state may some day be very sorry that we didn't do something to protect the amount of water that's out there for the people to use, regardless if it's golf courses,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...or domestic use, or for whatever use there might be. So that's...that's the concern that I have, and I have to be very honest about it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Again, I rise in support of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. The...the boxes are already in statute, aren't they, Senator Beutler? In your response, you mentioned that you spelled out clearly that what happens here is that unless you're someone who needs in excess of 3,000-acre feet of water, you're basically left to the common law. And in the commercial industrial area you're at the back of the bus, so to speak, in terms of the priorities. You're the individual that has to wait until the very end. So, in other words, the fairness issue is only fair if you happen to be someone who is a large commercial or industrial user. The fairness doesn't apply to the little people, those folks who wonder why government doesn't work, or whether they've been treated fairly in general with regard to the process. So there...they resort to these kinds of measures that everyone is allowed to do, and we've done on a number of occasions for large entities, arguing that it's in the best interests of the state, and that it's in the best interests of economic development.