

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

March 22, 2001 LB 329

earth is a place we live. The water is what we're going to need in the future and we have to find a solution to that, and it's not a solution to continue to ignore it. I would urge to consider strongly the amendment of Senator Schrock. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Don Pederson. The lights that are currently on are Senators Beutler, Wickersham, Baker, Schrock, Preister, Jones and Dierks. Senator Beutler, on the Baker amendment to the Schrock amendment to LB 329.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I couldn't agree more with Senator Pederson. We need to stop going around in circles at some point, and this seems to be developing today into a continuation of what came before and what just continues, the avoidance of responsibility. Senator Baker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BEUTLER: If you're on the floor, let me ask you, did you have a bill on the Environmental Trust this year?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Will you respond, Senator?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, I will respond. No, I did not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you. First of all, I would disagree strenuously to attaching Senator Baker's amendment for a couple of reasons. First of all, it wasn't introduced as a bill. It's not had a public hearing. There are...there is a tremendous cross section of people out there who are vitally interested in the Environmental Trust and would be enormously upset by the attaching of this amendment and it would bring this bill down. All we'd be doing is going in circles again. But, secondly, I would oppose it simply because the people of the state voted on a concept of the Environmental Trust which had to do not only with water but with air, with land, with habitat, with a whole variety of environmental issues. It specifically, specifically when they were considering the case, was not to be used as a substitute for normal governmental funds that were used for particular purposes such as water quality and the NRDS.