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## Trans-Basin Diversions

## TRANS-BASIN DIVERSIONS

HAMLET J. (CHIPS) BARRY

My friends, I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time. However, I want you to know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it might be.

You ask me how I feel about trans-basin diversions. Here are my thoughts:

If when you say trans-basin diversion, you mean the devil's diversion, the water scourge, the bloody taking that defiles innocent streams, dethrones the pristine environment, destroys fish, invertebrates and the humble sport of angling; if you mean the evil appropriation that ruins essential agriculture and life-giving recreation, and leaves in its path a muddy ditch, a crumbling economy and a dispirited populace – then I certainly am against it.

But if, when you say trans-basin diversion, you mean the capture and careful use of that commodity which suffuses our economic and esthetic life with dynamic utility; if you refer to the hydraulics of commerce, the physiological basis of all life, the gentle stuff used to bathe our children, cleanse our souls, and guarantee our health and quality of life; if you mean the fluid essential to green and pastoral urban environs which nurture refugees from overgrazed meadows and feed-lots; if you mean carefully supplying the liquid without which life on the burgeoning and trendsetting Front Range would virtually cease; the lubricant for the engine that drives Colorado's prosperity and future promise – then of course I am for it.

This is my stand, and I will not compromise.

