

Senator Kremer first and then Senator Cullan.

SENATOR KREMER: On the committee amendment?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR KREMER: LB 81 prolongs the life of the ground water conservancy districts for an additional five years. Presently they are allowed to tax up to one mill. We were informed on the day of the hearing that they actually were taxing only about fifteen one hundredths of a mill so a member of the committee felt that it was unnecessary to authorize the taxing of one mill when they are not coming even close to taxing that much. So the amendment states, and converting it to cents, it would drop the authorization of taxation from 3.5 cents to 1 cent, pretty close to a quarter of a mill. That is the amendment. I move the adoption of the amendment. I may not support it but I move it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan, do you wish to talk to the committee amendments? Senator Sieck, do you wish to talk to the committee amendments?

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. Chairman, members of this distinguished body, I stand opposed to this amendment. I feel that it is a slap on the wrist for some good conservative directors out there that are doing an excellent job in conserving our water resources in an area that we are having problems with. Senator Maresh and Senator Kremer and myself did visit with the Board of Directors of the Blue Valley Association of Groundwater Districts and we requested them to do additional work in their particular area. We do have a problem of nitrate in that particular area. Gresham...not Gresham but Bradshaw, McCool Junction, and Fairmont are having difficulties with nitrate in their water, their municipal water. We feel that we need to know more knowledge of what is happening to the groundwater. They did take some studies on the domestic wells and we found several domestic wells that did have problems but we also felt that the water that is in the lowest aquifers should be also studied and we also feel that we need to know how fast this nitrate is infiltrating through the ground and so we would like to have a soil profile of the nitrate within the soil structure itself. They agreed that they would do this and this may take more funds and I feel it is a real difficulty for me to accept a cut in the mill levy when these individuals have never used the full mill levy and have never abused it. They are very conservative. These individual directors are working unpaid. They are just paid for their expenses and I feel they are doing a tremendous job. So I stand opposed to this amendment.