

measuring. So the measurements that we know now are conservative, I believe. The. . . I also wanted to mention that even though human health obviously is the most important concern that we have to keep in mind, that this same type of nitrate problem, nitrate poisoning is a problem in animal health that has been shown to result in poor growth rates and infertility and Vitam A deficiencies and a number of other symptoms which affect animal health and have a very direct relationship to animal health. So it is not just humans themselves but also animal health which strikes right at or the economy that supports us all. Again, this is a small step, I think, in the right direction. Nitrate problems are caused by a number of things. There is nitrate in the natural vegetation, there is nitrate in human waste and in animal waste which cause point pollution problems. We are starting to address those problems already through the Environmental Control Department and in a number of other ways. The nitrate problem is also caused by the application of fertilizer. At this particular point in time there are still a great number of people in the state who argue that the fertilizers are not polluting the groundwater and won't pollute the groundwater. To me, to say that, is somewhat akin to what happened in the state just a few years ago when the people were saying that there is no relationship between surface water and groundwater. The create these agrarian myths and then perpetrate them until the evidence is so strong, so strong, that nobody can deny it any longer.

SENATOR NICHOL: Your time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That is what happened with the myth regarding the relationship of surface and groundwater. That is part of the reason we are so late in addressing the problem. Now there are those who would perpetrate the myth that there is no relationship between the application of fertilizers and the nitrate contents of the underground water.

SENATOR NICHOL: Your time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I believe that that is a myth that we have to debunk as soon as possible and start working with the nitrate problem. It is a problem. I hope you see fit to advance the bill and get us moving in the right direction. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question is shall LB 146 be advanced to E & R initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting aye.

SENATOR NICHOL: Record.