

others will benefit outside of that SPA and I think that is the gist of Senator Coordsen's concerns with that particular SPA. I might add that's one of the first, if not the first special protection area that we have implemented in Nebraska and so it has caused some problems as we bring these into existence and I suspect that we will see many more special protection areas being implemented and developed in this state in time. And, obviously, the dollars are going to have to be there in order to clean up the groundwater where we have contamination that exists, and most of these contamination problems seem to be nitrate buildups in the groundwater. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Mr. Clerk, we have an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the committee amendments. (Beutler amendment appears on page 610 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I hope you will come alive again because this is not a small bill that deals with one small situation. This is a major change in policy with regard to how we're going to address groundwater contamination in specified areas of the state. What this bill does is reject the current legislative policy, which is this. Right now you can levy a special two-cent tax on everybody within that special problem area and, in addition, if you so choose, you can take the districtwide levy and add additional funds from that levy and contribute to the solving of the problem in this special area. So, in other words, the legislative policy was that those people who caused the problem would pay something and those people in the general district would help. Now what you've done with the committee amendments, if you do not amend them, is that you're going to say that those people in the special districts pay nothing at all other than the districtwide levy and those who are outside the problem area are going to pay much, much more. So if you live in Hastings or if you live in Grand Island or if you live in Scottsbluff or Omaha or Lincoln, there is going to be a significant increased contribution from those areas in order to pay for groundwater contamination problems in isolated rural areas here and there. In my district, for example, the Lower Platte Natural Resource District, most of their money comes from the City of Lincoln.