

case, in this particular case, in the Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District, where this special protection area happens to exist, the municipal drinking wells from Beatrice happen to be located inside the special protection area, but the people of Beatrice are not going to have to pay for any of the cleanup of this ground water contamination. And so there is some argument of inequity here. That's what we're arguing at the point. We decided, after discussing the issue with Senator Byars and Senator Coordsen, to expand the ability of a natural resource district to levy, rather than the 2 cents within that boundary of the SPA, to expand it to a half a cent for the entire natural resource district to be used in applying dollars toward this special protection area. As Senator Beutler indicated, this is a broadening of public policy as it deals with water contamination and in the funding of SPAs. What I believe Senator Beutler has decided to do is try and offer what he considers to be a compromise amendment. Rather than voice my opinion on that at this point, I would simply say that I will let him explain the amendment. But the committee amendments do become the bill. They strike the original sections of the bill and add in this half a cent valuation increase for NRDs. I'll get into more detail about that, but that's kind of a quick and a brief explanation of LB 21 and its history.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator, I have your amendment that you offered the other day. Is that the one? You may find Senator Beutler's amendment to the committee amendments on page 610 of the Journal, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, on your amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me say again what the amendment to the committee amendment does, because your understanding of the fundamental mechanics of this will make all the difference to you in how you ultimately stand on the issue. But you will recall that we have these special control areas within NRD districts. There's a process by which certain specified geographic portions of an NRD district can be declared within special control areas. And under the current law, if you want to institute specific controls within those control areas, you can tax the people within that special control area, up to a certain extent, up to 2.5, up to 2 cents.