

areas. And I just think that, as a matter of philosophy, what we agreed upon in prior years makes a lot of sense. In this specific situation, I would rely on Senator Coordsen to reiterate the facts. But, as I remember them from the hearing, it's true that Beatrice has their water wells in that area. But there was no evidence presented that those water wells were contributing to the pollution, in fact, that's one reason why they want to get the pollution cleaned up is because somebody else is polluting their water wells. Nor is there any evidence that the use of districtwide funds shifted into the special use areas, there is no evidence that their levy is currently inadequate to do that anyway. In other words, they didn't come to us and say, we don't have enough district wide funds to shift into that area to create a viable control area. If that's the fact, that would be interesting to hear. But my only suggestion in putting up this amendment is that we stick by the current split system of handling these situations. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We'll now proceed down the list. I don't know if all these people want to talk on the Beutler amendment. Senator Rod Johnson, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I, obviously, rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment, principally because I offered the committee amendment which broadens this taxing authority. I think we differ on this issue, not in the area of cleaning up the groundwater at all, I think the issue at hand is the philosophy of who pays, or who helps pay. And I can sympathize with the statements that he's made that the City of Beatrice...the citizens that live in Beatrice probably did not help contaminate the groundwater. But, as we know, groundwater has a tendency to move, and the fact is that many of those municipal drinking wells are not located directly beneath the city limits of Beatrice, but are rather spread out in the resi...or the rural areas where farming practices and others do take place. And I guess it's a broad public policy decision we have to make here, is society responsible in helping both maintain quality of groundwater as well as to clean it up. I argue that you have such an insignificant amount of valuation being taxed, under the 2 cents, or under Senator Beutler's amendment of 3 cents, that you're not going to generate the type of dollars you're going to need to bring about remedial action to clean up. Now there are steps that can be taken to regulate farmers in the method in which they apply chemicals and so