

forth, but there are also cleanup possibilities or cleanup probabilities that will require a substantial amount of dollars. In the isolated case that we're talking about, in the Lower Big Blue, the problem we face, or they face, in the Lower Big Blue NRD, they are nearly at their mill levy lid which is 4.5 cents. They're at 4.18, which only leaves them about .30 amount of dollars to generate. I don't know what that is, I think Senator Coordsen might know, maybe somewhere around \$50,000 is all they have remaining. But just as you could argue that NRD money is not being spent in cities, you could argue the same fact that, hey, we're not getting back the money that we pay. But you don't build dams, for example, on 72nd and Dodge, or you don't build dams at 17th and O, you build them out in the rural areas. The same is the case here, you invest your dollars in the areas that you have potential problems. We have a problem in this particular area, and we need to clean it up. And what I'm saying, in opposing both Senator Beutler's amendment, and, number two, supporting the committee amendment which I had offered, is that we're broadening the taxing authority for those NRDs so that they can take steps, financially, to address the contamination problem. It is a societal problem that needs to be addressed, and whether the dollars come from an isolated group of people, in an SPA, or the broad picture of the whole district as a whole is something, I guess, the body will have to decide. But, as we place more and more demands on our natural resource districts to deal with water quality and water contamination problems, they're going to need an expanded authority, I think, to address these water quality concerns. And this is one step to give them the financial tools they might need in an SPA to address how we're going to clean up the water, how we're going to maintain the quality. I see our differences here as simply being more philosophical about who is responsible and who should pay. And I'm saying with my committee amendment that everybody in the natural resource district shares in the concerns for groundwater quality, and it should be a broader brush that should be painted here, that we should use dollars from throughout the district as opposed to an isolated SPA boundary. Those are my comments. As I said, I'm also concerned more than anything else with Senator Beutler's amendment that you're not going to be able to provide the kinds of dollars...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...that you're going to need to create the remedial action that is probably going to be necessary to clean