

January 13, 1992 LB 338

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, another question to Senator Johnson. Why don't we let the resources districts pay for it?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, you can, obviously. You can have the...the local natural resources take care of that and take it out of your personal...or your property tax.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, well, I'm sure...I'm sure that would be all right with Senator Morrissey. I know he doesn't care where we get the money. I...and...but, well, I guess I haven't changed. I still think we should have the money if we're going to do something about it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Beutler would move to amend LB 338 on line 20, page 4. It changes the words 25 to 50. Line 20, page 4, change 25 to 50.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature. I would...I would start off certainly agreeing that groundwater pollution is perhaps the most important long-term problem facing the state. And I would start out by saying I think that it makes sense to set up some sort of mechanism to provide for some sort of state contribution. I would also say that it makes perfect sense for the people who dirtied the water to clean up the water. And I would say that it makes perfect sense and, in the long term, you will have more responsibility with regard to the problem, if you tell the people there that they will pay if they do not keep the water clean. And the federal government's going to make them pay. What Senator Morrissey is telling you in the long term is certainly true. What my amendment does, it says that instead of the local NRD contributing 25 percent for any project out of their local property tax funds, they will contribute 50 percent out of local tax funds, so that any project that is completed out of this fund will be 50 percent NRD funds and 50 percent state sales, income, cigarette tax, whatever it is that the state puts into this fund, and as a