

parenthesis, I might say that the Governor's Environmental Trust Fund could be altered to provide out of the cigarette tax to channel money into this fund if this body would see fit to handle the matter in that way. So, this...this bill, as it's currently drafted without the amendment, is obviously a good deal for NRDs and for everybody out there who has a groundwater pollution problem because they only pay a quarter of it. And the state's taxpayers, and sales and income tax money, or from other funds, will be paying the remainder. So, I hope that you'll give some thought to making the local areas bear more responsibility. The problem, I think, is two part. To a certain extent, the problem came to be created because nobody knew what was happening scientifically for a period of time and there...and pollution came about. And I think for that part of the pollution that occurred, you can say, well, none of us knew what was happening. Let's all share the cost of getting that clean. But we've had a continuing problem in the 1980's, of people shutting their eyes to continuing groundwater pollution. And they have shut their eyes for the obvious reason that by and large, most of the people who are polluting are very close to the problem, and it's a very tough economic problem. And I think you should be aware that the NRDs, as you know, are controlled by the neighbors of those people who are polluting. A situation that makes for a very difficult situation also. And I think we need to do more at the state level to push the NRDs and to tell them, darn it, we know it's tough, but this is a serious problem. This is a serious problem that the...that the federal government is going to be on our case about shortly, and we'll have another landfill situation on our hands. So I think they need to know that they're going to be responsible and we need to push them to be responsible as quickly as possible. We should not put something into the law that says, all right, we got it all set up for the state to bail you out. The state's not going to bail you out, at least not in whole, or at least they shouldn't. So I hope you will see fit to change that share rate from 25 percent to 50 percent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Beutler amendment. Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No closing.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you. We will now vote on the Beutler amendment. All those in favor, please vote aye, opposed, nay.