

represents a big question right there. And beyond that, beyond this bill even, the issue that will come up this year, and that we need to talk about is whether beyond the people in the NRD are we going to put state sales and income tax money into assisting in the cleanup, or cigarette tax money into assisting in the cleanup? To what extent do the people of the state, generally, or the people of the state outside of a polluted area, to what extent are we going to hold them responsible for the pollution done within a particular local, and especially with regard to the pollution that's gone on in the last ten years, in my opinion, when people doing the polluting have had some real knowledge of the problem that's being created, and have perhaps, in my opinion, in many areas of the state, moved much too slowly to correct the situation. Should taxpayers from outside the polluted area in the NRD, from outside the NRD come in and bail out these people who have perhaps not taken the steps they should have taken to correct their own problems? And without looking back, but looking to the future, should we let the people in the specific area off the hook so as to lessen the incentive on their part to make things right in the future? If you adopt the committee amendment you're saying, with regard to that special protection area tax, we're going to reduce that from 2 cents to a half cent. And when you do that a couple of things happen. First of all, you lessen the incentive on the people within the area who are doing the polluting to clean up their own act. Secondly, it means the money has to come from some place else, which means you're going out and taxing people who never caused the problem. And, beyond that, it may mean ultimately pressure to put sales...states sales and income tax money, or other state funds into the problem. And so what my amendment does, it says, well, if the...if the complaint is that the levy for the special protection area doesn't raise enough money, let's increase that. So instead of reducing the special area levy to a half a cent, my amendment to the committee amendments would raise it to 3 cents. And that represents in philosophy the philosophy that, darn it, let's put some pressure on the people that are causing the problem, that will cause them to start measuring how much nitrate is in their soil, that will cause them to think twice about fall fertilizer practices, that will cause them to think very seriously about what they may have to pay to clean up what is being dirtied. To do what the original bill suggested, to do what the committee amendment suggests, I suggest lessens in a very dangerous way and gives completely the wrong message in this particular situation. It is saying to the people in these particularly polluted areas it