

wasn't your fault. And maybe, to some extent, as time passed and practices and cause and effect were not known, maybe in the early period there is some truth to that. And whatever truth there may be to that will be the basis in this Legislature, at some point in time, probably for putting some state money into this problem. But it would be wrong, I think, to say that that is the whole truth. The fact is from the early 1980's on there were clear indications of what's happening, and it continues to happen, it has not been addressed in certain areas of the state. So that is the philosophic and very real, I think, financial dilemma that we're in. And this bill is a part of what's going to be your general philosophic attitude about how we address groundwater pollution. I think we all recognize that, next to solid waste, it's our most immediate and our largest environmental problem. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. I'll now recognize senators wishing to address the Beutler amendment. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. SPAs were created a number of years back with a specific intent, and that intent was to provide the mechanism to address special concerns in an area. Whether those concerns relate to actual groundwater pollution, or whether they are organized to hopefully alleviate future problems can both be wrapped up in the same reasons for creating an SPA. As a general rule, SPAs are created to provide an area of protection for municipal water well fields, for city water. Now that, like any statement of that, is not 100 percent true, but those that have been formed have been formed with that intent in mind. The reason that those have been formed is that there seems to be an indication that in some areas the nitrates in the groundwater are increasing. However, there have been numerous effort by geologists, hydrologists, all of those who are expert in the field to try to pinpoint the reason for this happening. And there does not seem to be, at this time, anything more than an assumption, and that is that if you say something often enough then it becomes true. I think that in this area, as well as anything else we do, we may...we need to be a little bit concerned about finger-pointing, we need to be concerned about cost-benefit ratios, we need to be concerned about who is going to be paying the cost, and who is going to receiving the benefit. Now as a practical standpoint, from a practical standpoint SPA's are relatively small land areas with a low