

would be a sufficient amount of money to address a problem in a specific area. And those problems, I think as Senator Schmit indicated, we're only touching the tip of the iceberg as far as what water quality problems we might have in this state. There are alternate programs that are going to be discussed this session, I think, by legislative packages being introduced by the Governor and by other legislators to look at trying to generate more money to address what is going to be, I think, a very substantial problem in this state in the coming years. So, at this particular point, I...I cannot support Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I would rise, at this point, to support the intent of the Beutler amendment, but recognize some of the difficulties Senator Coordsen has identified with the issue. Perhaps there's a common ground here that can be reached. It seems a concept that we really need to think about is the local control aspect. The one great advantage of the natural resource districts is we do have, spread across, I think there are 24 of them around the state, the ability of local individuals to deal with their local pollution problems. And, obviously, the groundwater pollution problem is one of great interest. What has been discussed is who benefits from trying to resolve the problem. I think Senator Coordsen was talking about one of the great concerns has been water supply for cities and other individuals being contaminated, that being the concern, and trying to cleanup the water so that we can, obviously, drink safe water. That benefit may, probably be more targeted toward the city area than the rural, because that's where the people are. But, again, the other argument is who's at fault for causing the problem. And I guess there we've had a discussion about the farmer has some responsibility, but I think clearly, as Senator Schmit said, there are others as well. The city dump problem that we've had with unlicensed landfills have contributed, and other concerns are there. There's probably enough blame to go around. So the real question is, what do we do about it? Seems to be two concepts, one spreading to the whole district the cost. That will be a concern, obviously, to some of us who feel like, I think coming from the Lincoln perspective, that we've tried to be cautious, and we've had licensed landfills, and there would be some concern about us, perhaps, being taxed for something we didn't have a particularly large part of causing a problem. At