

current levy is, but '90-91 year had less than 3 cents on the average across the state, they have a 4.5 cent allowable limit that they can levy on real property for the uses of the NRD. So 21 was introduced from the standpoint that the 2 cent really didn't do any good, it provided...it created a potential burden for people who were going to have to spend extra money to comply with whatever the unknown regulations might be, simply because of the fact of living within a defined boundary. What the committee amendments do, and I support the committee amendments, is simply create a situation that doesn't raise the 4.5 cent limit. But if a district is up to or close to the 4.5 cents and the expenses of monitoring, creating, administrating a special protection area would cause them to go over the limit, then they would have a 1/2 cent extra balloon, so to speak, in their limit for a specific instance, specific case. Spreads the cost. I don't think, although the Beutler amendment, I'm sure, is well intended, it really won't do anything to ease the problem that is developing out there, and it really won't provide anything more in funding, from a practical standpoint, and simply creates an additional burden and a lot of additional, what I believe to be unneeded public discomfort with the creation of SPAs. I think they're a good idea. I think they're going to be used more and more frequently in the future. I think it bears upon us to ensure that they are provided with the capacity of being funded and received well by the public, the people who have to comply with whatever regulations. So I would urge the rejection of the Beutler amendment and the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, if I may, I would prefer to substitute the amendment at this point in time and withdraw the existing amendment.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the committee amendments. Would you like me to read it, Senator, or...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think it's probably easiest if I just explain it, Mr. Clerk. Members of the Legislature, what I hear the members who have spoken so far ask for is some kind of compromise on this issue. And what I'm offering now is in fact a compromise on this issue. What the committee amendment says is that we're going to have no tax, no particular special tax on