

people within the special groundwater area, and we're going to have a half a cent tax on the entire district. My problem was that it didn't give the NRD flexibility to put us...to put...to focus attention on those who are causing the problem. George's problem is that his district can't get enough money to deal with the problem. So what I suggest to you now is this, and it might be a very good long-term solution. Restore the law with regard to the 2 cent levy on the special protection area property owners, simply restore that so that the 2...that the possibility of taxing them at 2 cents is there. Now that doesn't mean they have to be taxed at 2 cents, the NRD can choose to do it. You have to remember that the NRD can choose to levy this special tax, or not levy this special tax even now, even now they can ignore it and go to the general NRD levy. But at least it's there for them to use as a tool to get extra money, to create incentives, whatever is necessary in the current law. So my amendment would leave that just as it, and then go to George's idea and allow the NRD, generally, to levy a half a cent tax in addition to their 4.5 cents solely for the purpose of augmenting the remediation of groundwater problems in these special protection areas. So if you have an NRD, and if it has a special protection area, we will do what George wants and give the general NRD the authority for an additional half cent levy. But, on the other hand, we will retain the flexibility on the part of the NRD to use the 2 cent levy. Why should you take that ability away from them. So I would suggest that that compromise is something that would seem to go along with what the conversation has been so far on this matter. Thank you.

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

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair, members, Chris, or Senator Beutler, one more time briefly summarize the new amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, the new amendment would do this. It would leave in place the current law that allows a two cents special levy within the boundaries of the special groundwater quality district. It would add to the law authority for the NRD to levy an additional half a cent levy district wide for the sole purpose of augmenting a special protection area of regulation. In other words, if a district has a special protection area and if they need that additional half cent levy