

questioned the ability to determine point source solution...pollution. It's not well defined. It only now, only now are, on the national level, are they beginning to look at the contribution of the thousands of tons of nitrogen fertilizers that are put on lawns in the city and become part of both surface and groundwater pollution. Only now are those things coming into being. Everything that we do goes some place to do something, whether it's fertilizing your lawn to make it green, whether it's growing a crop of corn, anything that's excess becomes, or has the potential for becoming a problem. The Beutler amendment, while I appreciate, Senator Beutler, the compromise effort, does not address the...what I believe to be one of the main reasons for the bill, and that is the acceptance of special protection areas as part of our effort to improve our environment. To impact a certain group of people I do not believe is fair. I think we all benefit from any improvement that we can make in our environment, any reduction that we can achieve in groundwater pollution, whatever level we begin from, is a step in the right direction, and we all bear a certain responsibility to share in that. So I would encourage, at this point in time, the rejection of the Beutler amendment and the adoption of the committee amendment which provides flexibility and funding, should it be needed, for the NRDs across Nebraska. We don't know, in the future, that as a matter of fact a special protection area might be to the extent of covering a significant portion of an NRD, and it could well be used, and I know that's not the intent, but it could well be used as an end run around the 4.5 cent property tax levy. Now, if it's needed, then it's not an end run. If it's used to raise money to replace revenue that is wanted to be used some place else, then it's an end run. I prefer the committee amendments, they provide the degree of protection, it does not alter, in any way, the ability to create special protection areas, nor hopefully benefits derived from that. It shares the funding among all of those who have the potential for being a contributor and certainly we are all, we are all recipients of any effort to improve our environment. Thank you, Madam President.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I hope you're all still listening because this is really important. I'm not sure where to start in addressing some of the points that have been made, but I think that they all need