

suppose this is maybe the critical point on this particular set of amendments, and maybe the critical point on the bill, at least from my perspective. If Senator Rogers and his committee want to take this down to the state level and regulate these matters, I'm all for it. And my only hang-up with the bill is simply this, that we are making the lead agency the Department of Agriculture. And I think by all logic, except one logic, it should be with the Department of Environment Control. And what my amendment does is simply that, it changes the lead agency from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Environmental Control. And my reasons are simply this, all the years that I've been in the Legislature and dealing with water matters, and this is primarily a water matter, under this bill you're developing a groundwater management plan, that business of the control of water has always been in the hands of the NRDs working in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Control, with advice, policy kinds of advice, from the Natural Resources Commission, working also with the Department of Water Rights. So we already have four different kinds of entities involved in water management. In my opinion, that's too many as it is. There is some confusion and we need to get rid of some of the bureaucracy that is involved in that particular issue in order to streamline decision-making. But now instead of doing that, we're going in the opposite direction and fragmenting even more the leadership on the water issue. What we're talking about when we're talking about economic poisons are basically pollution, pollution of one type or another, air pollution, water pollution, ground pollution, that has traditionally been in the charge of the Department of Environmental Control. It is the Department of Environmental Control that has the expertise built up, at least to some extent, to deal with these questions already. They already have a department that deals with water, and that deals with water quality problems. Why are we going to create a second water quality department in the Department of Agriculture to deal with just one category of things that cause water problems, pesticides? You know, what about fertilizers? Fertilizers are not under this bill, but they also cause water quality problems. What about leaching from feedlots, a whole number of things can cause water quality problems that are beyond the scope of this legislation. And so we will be creating, in the Department of Agriculture, yet another bureaucracy to stick its nose into the water management area. If we're going to have a statewide water management plan, which is...which has been opposed, by the way, by a majority in this Legislature, up until this particular point in time, if we're