

it does not exist, we ought not create a problem where none does exist. As Senator Beutler has pointed out, it doesn't touch fertilizers, doesn't touch feedlots, doesn't touch...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...a myriad of other potential contamination areas, and all of those need to be addressed when it comes to the protection of groundwater quality. Now relative to...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, I'll speak again some other time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Well, I was glad that Senator Schmit asked who had read the bill, because...relative to the Beutler amendment, because you will find, if you will read the existing language of statute, that by and large with regard to agricultural pesticides that that authority lays, today, with the Department of Agriculture. For definitional terms, the director shall mean the Director of Agriculture, or his or her authorized agent. I ran out of paper clips going through here for the number of times that the Director of Agriculture is mentioned in existing statute. They administer the fund that is used from...or developed from collecting the taxes. The director may restrict registration of certain economic poisons. The director is authorized to declare as a pest, to determine economic poisons to be highly toxic, to determine standards of coloring. The director is authorized to adopt and promulgate regulations, standards, et cetera. The director is authorized to adopt and promulgate; the director is authorized and empowered to cooperate and enter into agreements with any other agency of state government including blah, blah, blah, and this goes on through. To all of a sudden make the Department of Environmental Control the lead agency in this particular effort would be a complete reversal of what current law provides. They are the agency, at this particular time, that has the responsibility. Now that does not mean that they will be the necessary agency that has the responsibility at some time in the future, as law changes. But at the current time I think it's perfectly logical to make the Department of Agriculture the lead agency in the development of the plan, and