

accept the legislation either way, Department of Ag, or Department of Environmental Control. Typically, agreement state status, which is what we're striving for, something similar to that, allows a certain amount of flexibility for the state within a set of guidelines, that's what we're looking for, in my opinion. Now whether the Department of Ag does it shouldn't drive someone from the bill, as...the same as if the Department of Environmental Control shouldn't drive someone from the bill. Do we want to manage this program and have the flexibility needed on the state level to protect our groundwater. Senator Coordsen and Senator Elmer were right, Department of Ag makes a lot of sense, management of pesticides. Senator Beutler is right, Department of Environmental Control makes more sense, protection of groundwater. I agree with Senator Beutler that the Department of Environmental Control is the way to go. But if it's not adopted I'm still on the bill. I wouldn't be voting for it to kill the bill, I think it's needed. I think the time has come. Department of Environmental Control, the old Department of Environmental Control was well known, or the perception was that they thumped the little guy and let the big guy get away with murder.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: And that was the basic concerns of, I'm sure, many of the ag senators, including myself when I first started hearing this legislation and the ideas behind it. Let the Department of Ag handle it, it's a comfort thing. Many of the farmers would not be as concerned, many of the ag people would not be as concerned if the Department of Ag was administering the act. Again, I want to emphasize it's a new department, and I think they are very reasonable. I think they would be a good group to administer this program. I support Senator Beutler's amendment and would urge you all to look at the bill, look at the difference, it's not a large change from what we've been discussing for the past three, four, or five years.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. You may continue, if you wish, your light is next.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you. I have just a little bit more to say. Thank you. The discussion in Ag Committee was coordination. The bill that was heard last year, a year ago, some of the reasons for that bill being brought was