

becomes minuscule. So I don't think that that should be a large concern in anybody's mind. I don't think that the allowable deductions ought to become a nightmare for any treasurer. To the extent that they're there now, they're fairly easily understandable. If you don't want to take the deductions, you don't have to take the deductions. You can make it very simple. There is also a very simple way in the event that you're concerned about the concept being out there that this money will end up in your opponent's coffers, this money cannot end up in your opponent's coffers if you simply agree to abide by the campaign expenditure limitations, because, under that scenario, your opponent cannot get any money out of this particular fund. One can argue that it's a narrow group of people but one can also argue that this is no different than fees on hunters or fishers to support hunting and fishing, people who participate in the process. I think some would argue that those are the people who get the biggest benefit from the process. I don't want to get into the whole area of special interest groups and public perceptions and realities there. I don't think that that does us much good but I think there are many people in our society that would say special interest groups who contribute lots of money to these campaigns tend to benefit more than others. I'm not sure if I have addressed all of the questions that come up, but none of the questions are questions that have not been addressed or thought of. To the extent there are again things that can be done that improve the structure of the bill, in anybody's opinion, I'm certainly amenable to the will of the body in that regard, but once again, I implore you to keep the eye...keep your eye on the big picture and the big picture is we've got a law in place that the public is counting...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...on us to follow through with that is not funded. And somewhat we've been through this historically. I have tried to get General Funds for this in the past. I've tried other mechanisms for funding this in the past and one way or another the body keeps rejecting each and every proposal. And it's, you know, coming down to the point where we need to settle upon one, otherwise I think the public will rightly be disillusioned with our efforts and wondering about the sincerity of our efforts. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hudkins.