

as a...I am trying to remember, I think they call it a manufacturer's tax or some such thing. Nonetheless, the price of the tax is built into the price of the product.

SENATOR WILL: Sure, and I guess I was just trying to make a distinction in own mind, because if I recall correctly, and I, too, would need to check, but I think it was kind of a semiexcise, semisales tax that was maybe based on value at the time of production, something of that sort, but I just wanted to clarify it and see if you knew any more about that than I do at this point. But I certainly would agree with you, that that does go into the cost of the product just as a sales tax would. With that, I would give you any remainder of my time, for anything further you would have.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just in partial response to what you are saying, Senator, you know, there...if one is going to depart from operating principles, I would think that one of the areas where you would most certainly want to depart from operating principles is in the area of environmental damage, and to the extent that certain kinds of products, including agricultural chemical products, are of such a nature and used in such a volume that it becomes necessary to manage those uses, to hire people in the NRDs to do testing, to have extensive testing of municipal wells and that sort of thing, to the extent that those products present special problems, it seems to me, as has been done in a large number of states, that there is a justification for some sort of tax on those products, and yet here in Nebraska, with this kind of bill, we are tending to go in the opposite direction. We have exempted herbicides, and now we are exempting insecticides from all sales tax, but we haven't reinstated any kind of manufacturer's tax or other tax to make these people help pay a part of the special costs that are incurred to protect the environment through ground water management plans and the people we hire to monitor and enforce ground water management plans, and everything we do to keep the ground water clean in this state, and that's another aspect of this bill that kind of upsets me, that we treat all of these...we treat them in an inequitable sense as compared to other kinds of business inputs to start with, and then the thing that is getting favorable treatment is probably something that should get unfavorable treatment in terms of the way it is taxed because of the unusual problems that it causes with respect to environmental damage. Thank you.