

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I am afraid to say that in the context in which Senator Beutler is presenting his amendment, I would have to oppose it. I will tell you, Senator Beutler, that I don't have any objection to Section 1 that includes Section 33 and Section 34, but beyond that, I am uncertain what this does. I'm...I have got some uncertainty, of course, as I think you do, we don't even know how many of these things they are, how they currently operate. It looks to me like we are making substantive changes in the way that they operate without knowing very much about them. So this is broader than just finding out if they exist, and if they exist, how much property tax they are using, and what, frankly, Senator, what I would encourage you to do is to revise the amendment or to reoffer the amendment with simply the provisions of Section 33 and Section 34, and I wouldn't have any objection to that, but the rest of it, I think is quite beyond my capacity to understand the benefits and the burdens of it. And, in fact, I'm a little bit concerned about the actual germaneness of those provisions in respect to this bill. I am willing to assist the Natural Resources Committee in learning about these entities, but I don't know at this point as I'm willing to assist the Natural Resources Committee in restructuring them when I really don't know very much about them, and I am not sure that anybody knows much about them until we get some reports from them. But, Senator, I'm, in the context of the amendment at the moment, I would oppose it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, if Senator Beutler could yield to some questions please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Beutler, these drainage ditch authorities or however they are explained, what is their taxing authority? Do they...are they unlimited on what they can...what they can levy? How are they paid? Say there is two miles of drainage ditch, are they unlimited on the amount of money they can spend, say, to clean this thing out?