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SENATOR MATZKE: It actually prevents two possible migrations or flow. It protects the saltwater from coming up...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Up.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...and it protects the surface water from draining into the subsurface structures.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The fee that's being imposed in this case is a fee imposed on wells that are inactive for a certain period of time, two years or longer. Are you...

SENATOR MATZKE: Yes, the...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...leaving it to the Oil and Gas Commission, by rule and regulation, to determine what inactive would mean? Is that the way...

SENATOR MATZKE: I'm sorry,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...it would operate?

SENATOR MATZKE: ...I'm having difficulty hearing you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Gavel.) Members, if you could please hold your conversations down, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The fee that's being imposed is a per well, per year fee.

SENATOR MATZKE: That's correct, and it would be imposed and paid by the operator, which is generally the oil company that is operating and producing the oil well. It would be up to, and this is a maximum, of \$200. It may initially be set lower than that. It would be paid on each well by the oil company, but only on wells that have been inactive for two years or longer.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Would it...would it not be accurate in