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landowner. They have a joint interest, it's the same interest, so the landowner is protected in that regard. I would urge the body to put off until a later date Senator Beutler's amendment, which I think more appropriately should be the basis of a separate bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, you're certainly to be commended for your concern for our underground water and keeping our underground water safe and pure. I do agree with Senator Matzke that we have kind of a different subject matter here. We have the petroleum industry, who's trying to regulate themselves, they came to us with this...with this bill, not asking for any state funds. They're imposing a fee on abandoned wells and certainly that may be an appropriate place to...for a source of revenue to plug irrigation and water wells. I would need some time to review what the NRDs are doing now. We do have some programs in place. I think the appropriate place for this would be back to the committee for a hearing and to get the input of the NRDs and just to review what we are presently doing. And so, although I think you have a...have a concern here that we should all be concerned about, I think to amend it onto this bill is inappropriate at this...at this stage in time, and would be glad to work with you in the future. Perhaps an interim study would be the appropriate place. As I checked what's going on now, we do not have a bill like this referenced to our committee at this time, but we may well...it may well be something we should be addressing more aggressively.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. A question of Senator Matzke, please, as the introducer of the underlying bill. Senator Matzke, a question please. I haven't read the exact language of this bill, but my question is this, does the fee apply to all wells that are not...that have not been actively pumped, or only those that are...that are abandoned, that the casing has been removed? Does it apply to both capped