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that it would sunset. If there's an interest in finding funds to assist NRDs in a very vital role and mission of theirs, then let us find those funds as a separate issue. Let us maintain the integrity of this body and let us keep our promises that we made. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I, obviously, rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's motion. The fertilizer tax has had a contentious and difficult history and I do not think the actions of the Revenue Committee in indefinitely postponing the bill were irresponsible in any respect. All of the discussion in the committee centered around, as Senator Coordsen has indicated, the promises that have been made that that particular source of funding for groundwater programs related to nitrates would sunset. There was no lack of commitment that I detected amongst the members of the committee, and perhaps they'll speak for themselves if I'm misstating their positions. I detected no lack of commitment among the members of the committee to making sure that there was appropriate funding for those programs. It isn't that the committee believed that those programs should go away, that they weren't important, that they weren't beneficial. It was simply the judgment, as I understood, of the committee that we should find a different kind of funding source. Now, does that mean that we believe that General Funds should be applied? No. Does it mean that we should use property taxes? No. Does that mean that we will dedicate ourselves to finding a revenue stream to support those programs that will meet our other objectives? Yes. Do we need to do that today? No. The fertilizer tax does not sunset until December 31st of 2000. There is next session to deal with this issue and I'm sure that some persons will suggest to you that dealing with a contentious issue in a short session makes things that much harder, and that's accurate. But if we do our work, maybe it won't be a contentious issue. It's certainly not going to be as contentious an issue as if you vote to pull this bill from the Revenue Committee. The discussion of the sunset of LB 231 in its main components on this floor could not help but be quite contentious and I see no pressing need to bring that kind of controversy to you. I believe that the Revenue