

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this...this amendment deals with the channeling of the funds. The 30 dollar registration fee, right now, goes into General Funds. What this amendment would do would say that instead of that money going into the General Fund, it would go into the Water Well Decommissioning Fund. And I think you remember, perhaps, the conversation we had on the floor on a different bill a little bit earlier, this is money then that would be used by the NRDs to provide cost-share money to individuals who are interested in decommissioning their wells.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, Senator Beutler, if I could...members, if I could please ask you to either tone your conversations down, or take them off the floor, in respect to your colleagues, please. Thank you, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So the amount in the fund, at least the amount that has been in the fund for the last five years, varies from \$126,000 to last year it was \$178,000. So what this means is that that \$178,000, or thereabouts, instead of going to the General Fund, would go to the Water Well Decommissioning Fund. Now in that fund currently there is some General Fund money at the level of about \$100,000. That would not be changed and that amount, of course, would be subject to what the Appropriations Committee does and what...and what you do with the appropriations bill on the floor of the Legislature. So that would be a separate decision as to whether you wanted the General Funds to remain there to increase, to decrease, whatever. But this amendment, the only thing it does is to take the well registration fee, the \$30, and put it into this Water Decommissioning Fund and make the use of the money closer to the purpose for which the tax was levied in the first place. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. On the Beutler amendment to LB 92, Senator Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Beutler visited with me about this amendment and I am in support of it. Thank you.