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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Peterson. The Chair recognizes Senator Schrock on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also rise to support this amendment but I'd like to explain a little bit to you what's taking place here. Interestingly enough, we have a bill in Natural Resources Committee, called LB 273, sponsored by Senator Jones, that does some of the same things, and to be fair with the body, Senator Jones' bill would have put half as much money in the well decommissioning program. To bring you up to date, we have a program in the state that we cost-share with natural resource districts in decommissioning wells. This fund that Senator Beutler has proposed would raise approximately \$150,000 a year. It may be more than needed, I am not sure of that, but that could be decided at a later point in time. Last year, the NRDs used \$100,000 of General Fund money and \$100,000 of property tax money from their own levy to decommission wells. I can tell you in conversation with my own natural resource districts, they were very excited about Senator Jones' bill that would put some money into the well decommissioning program, and that is one of the reasons I am supporting the Beutler amendment. If you have any questions on this, I'd be glad to answer it. It is very possible that we could tinker with this on Select File, but I think it's a good amendment. It's an issue that needs to be addressed, and certainly this is an expedient way to do that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. The Chair recognizes Senator Jones on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, this kind of come as a surprise to me, because this is my bill, and I was getting an amendment drafted up to do the same thing and come out on the floor with it to put the whole \$30 into closing abandoned wells, which I really wanted to do, because that puts it back in it. I do think there should be a sunset on it because closing abandoned wells should be closed, you know, in a few years, so we shouldn't have it just continue to go on and on. I guess I'm going to support this, but I think that I'm going to try to put an amendment on it, on Select File, that would probably put a sunset on it because I don't think it should continue on. The people out in my district, in my area,