

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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was upset with the way it was going anyway because it was going into the General Fund, which is a tax to them, and so that's the reason I had the bill to start out with, and I would have liked to get rid of the complete \$30, but there was no support for that, so I was going to try and put it over in this fund so they could use it, and that's the reason that I had the amendment being drafted up. But I was surprised this just kind of happened this morning. But I'm going to go ahead and support this and see if I can't work an amendment on Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Maurstad, members of the Legislature, first of all, I would apologize to Senator Jones, had I known he had a bill that related to this area, but I didn't know that. I am not trying to steal his thunder. I'm glad we're on the same wave length on this matter, and the matter can be accomplished right here and now. I might point out to you the fact that, if you look at the well registration fees for the last few years, you will see that between four and six thousand wells a year are being registered. And if you look at the number of wells that the natural resources districts, if I'm remembering correctly, are cost-sharing these days, it's less than a thousand. So it's possible that there are people out there that are decommissioning their own wells and not applying for the cost-share. It is hard to know how many of those that there are but the discrepancy in the figures indicates to me that we ought to be looking at that program because, obviously, at least it seems obvious to me that we're not decommissioning wells at nearly the rate that we're drilling them. And we may be drilling a few more these days, but the rate of drilling has been fairly constant for a number of years now. Anyway, the money, I think, is very much needed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The motion before us is the adoption of the Beutler amendment to LB 92. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.