provides a kind of basic equity in the situation and then, after
that, go for precision, so that you're not disrupting programs
that now exist with respect to a politic...a particular
political subdivision, in this case the NRDs. The NRDs have
been very reluctant to spend property tax money. They are very
close to the people. They're not only very close to the people,
but they tend to be dominated by farmers and ranchers on their
boards--people who have been called upon, historically in this
state, to pay the largest amount of property taxes. And so, in
many instances, in many NRDs, in my opinion, they have chosen
not to do things they should be doing because they are reluctant
to further limit...to levy further property taxes. That was
true of the school system. And, as you know, we've
completely...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...redone our school system now, because that
situation existed with the school system. Now we're not asking
for more state money for the NRDs, we're just asking you to give
back the state money that they had, because that state money was
money that people felt comfortable with in terms of running
programs that really need to be done, like the groundwater
management plans. The NRDs aren't perfect, but the NRDs are as
good a system, or a better system than exists anyplace else in
this country for dealing with the natural resources, generally,
of the state, with groundwater pollution, with groundwater
quantity problems, with soil conservation problems. They are a
good, good system. But they don't work by taking money away
from them.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator
Beutler, there are no further lights. Would you like to
continue to.... Would you like to continue, you are entitled to
that, or would you like to close?

SENATOR BEUTLER: At this time, Senator, I believe I will close.

SENATOR CROSBY: All right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, all this does is
open up the discussion to the appropriate breadth of discussion