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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Is that amendment 697 you'd like withdrawn, Senator Raikes?

SENATOR RAIKES: I'm sure that...yes, that's correct.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, I have AM0818 in front of me. Pursuant to its offer, Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to suspend the germaneness rule to permit consideration of AM0818. (AM0818 is found on page 1015 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, thank you for your patience on this what I consider to be a significant question, and this amendment and one after that, if you have further patience, are the last two ideas that I would like to present to you with regard to making the NRDs not whole but at least returning to the NRDs some of the funds that have been taken away. Again, the total amount of funds in the next couple of years that will be taken away from the NRDs is about 4 million. This is what this amendment would do. In the Securities Fund, which administers or which is part of the Securities Act of Nebraska, there are certain monies that are put into that cash fund; all filing fees, registration fees, and other fees collected are paid to the Director of Banking relating to certain securities transactions. That cash fund has about \$6 million in it that is not currently needed for the purpose of securities regulation and which can be transferred to the General Fund. And what I'm suggesting is that that \$6 million be transferred to a Water Quality Fund, that the interest on that fund be transferred to the Natural Resources District Enhancement Fund, which is the fund that is being lost because of the curtailment of the fertilizer tax, and that would replace part of the money that is being lost. If you had \$6 million, the interest on that may be a half a million dollars a year in replacement revenues could come from that money to the