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types of production. So what I wanted to ask you to consider was simply the continuation of the \$1 per ton per gross tonnage fertilizer tax to go along and to balance the incentives that are being given with the extension of incentives and to go along with the producer reduction in the producer tax. The producer tax reduction in this bill is about \$2.2 million. A dollar per ton fertilizer tax equates, interestingly enough, to about \$2.2 million. So if you adopted this amendment you could restore the fertilizer tax and, in terms of what the producer is currently paying as between the producer tax and the fertilizer tax it would be no more than what the producer is paying currently because the fertilizer tax increase would balance off the decrease in the producer tax that you would enact by virtue of this amendment. It would equate to about the same amount of money. The benefit of the fertilizer tax is that the money then would also go back essentially to helping the rural areas in that the money goes into the Water Quality Enhancement Fund, which goes to the NRDs, which goes to the support of the groundwater management plans and the maintenance of water quality in all of those areas of the state and particularly those areas of the state that are high in corn production. The areas where we have the largest problems with nitrate pollution are, of course, those areas that are most intensively farmed and ordinarily with corn production. So it's good that we can get the price of corn up, that's benefitting a lot of farmers, by anywhere from 5 to 10 cents a bushel, and there ought to be an expectation there that a small portion of that go back into maintaining the environment in those areas where the production is going on. So, with that, I would be interested in the discussion on this particular amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Discussion on the Beutler amendment to the Stuhr amendment to LB 605? Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, I don't know how germane this is, but I think it's a good time to discuss it. The fertilizer tax ends December 31st, the year 2000, so it runs another year and a half. I think it's an appropriate tax for clean water. I will not oppose you on this amendment. I'm a little surprised we'd bring the issue up on an ethanol bill. If the fertilizer tax is