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change we made in the motor vehicle tax. So if they can raise their mill levy, if that can be done, they might not. But I submit to you that in looking at the NRDs we have in the state, it's very unlikely that they are going to be able to get that increase that would offset what they're losing. In addition, the 2.3 million that they're going to lose annually when the fertilizer tax sunsets is a whole lot bigger hit that they're going to take on top of this one. That's a double whammy. Right now we have, I think, a very fine system in place, and Senator Schrock, I think, talked about that very well. We have NRDs with board members elected at the local level to address water quality issues. I think they do a good job. We have a unique system in the state of Nebraska. We have folks out there who know the area, who live in the area, who work with the local folks, and they do what's best in their areas to address water quality problems. We're putting increasing demands upon them as we go year after year. And yet, correspondingly, they do not have the increased revenues to deal with those corresponding problems. To not give them the resources, to, in effect, take more away with the motor vehicle tax change, to take even more away with the sunseting of the fertilizer tax, and then to say, but we expect you to keep doing everything you're doing and then some, I think is very unrealistic. And as we deal with other issues that have potential for more contamination, I think we need to look very seriously at this amendment. I would hope that everyone would do that and that we would focus on that little word "if", "if", because the NRDs are going to lose income. Only "if" they raise their mill levies, and I submit to you that is very unlikely to happen.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: And one thing that I feel badly about in this debate is the way that it's framed; in effect, we're pitting the NRDs against the counties. I don't really feel comfortable in doing that. It's kind of like of divide and conquer, and the counties certainly are not somebody here that I'm standing to talk against or to say that they don't have some very legitimate needs in providing the services in the counties. But in this amendment, in effect, we're pitting the NRDs against the counties. I'm uncomfortable with that. I'm not going to cast my vote against the counties, but I am going to cast my vote