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SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, that would be fine.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Okay. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, this issue has been brought to the Revenue Committee twice, both times by Senator Beutler, and then there was a related bill that was introduced in Natural Resources Committee this year. The Revenue Committee, on both times that the bill has been introduced to extend the fertilizer tax, has killed the bill. And we have done that for a variety of reasons. One, when the tax was instituted there was a sunset provided in the legislation. The sunset will occur on December 31, 2000. Senator Beutler wants to extend the sunset, but it was the judgment of a majority of the members of the Revenue Committee that a sunset was a sunset and that we could provide for funding of the water quality programs through other sources. There was a conscious discussion within the Revenue Committee that there existed the potential for increasing property taxes, if the fertilizer fee was removed, if it was sunsetted. Members of the committee accepted that result and, in fact, there's an amendment...there's a provision in a bill that you may get to hear about later, LB 1138 is the number if you want to read the bill. It makes provisions for NRDs to use local resources within their budget, gives them a little bit of extra budget room to make up for any potential loss in fertilizer fee that they might have experienced. They will be able to go on with their programs. In addition, we made an analysis of all of the NRDs and their levy capacity. And we believe that they will have room within their levies to continue the programs, if they want to. Part of our concern is that it should be a decision that they make, whether or not to continue the program. And we were willing to provide for funding out of property taxes as long as it was their decision to continue the program. Senator Beutler indicates that there are...I think he's going to indicate to you that there are nitrate problems in a variety of areas in the state. That's certainly true. But, if there are nitrate problems, it seems to me that we have the mechanisms to address those problems. The NRDs will have the resources and the capacity to address those problems; Senator Beutler is just