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presuming that they will not, for some reason. I don't think that's been the history of NRDs. I think that when they have...when the problems have been identified and the needs have been there, they have acted in a responsible way, they have met the challenges and the needs that were presented to them. And I don't think that they will forget to continue the water quality programs that have been initiated under the auspices of the fertilizer fee. They will make the decisions at a local level.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: They will have the capacity and the ability to make those decisions, and they should be allowed to make those decisions. I do not see that we should now extend a fee or a tax that we firmly provided for the demise of the sunset of some time ago. It is not...it is not the time to go back on our commitments and our words in this instance.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. (Visitors introduced.) Debate on the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1348? Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Vrtiska, Beutler and Schrock. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. You know, I've been lobbied by both of my NRDs' general managers in support of an issue like Senator Beutler brings us. And I have told them, in no uncertain terms, that we had a bargain with the farmers in this state that that amendment or that fertilizer tax was going to go away and that I was going to honor that bargain. They expect that to happen, I expect that to happen. We had this argument in the Revenue Committee. And I think what has happened, and I don't think that Senator Wickersham got to the entire rest of that bill that he's talking about, the amendment on that bill. But I think that when he does tell you about that, you'll find that we are able to provide them with the same dollars that they had through the Enhancement Fund, and they'll be able to do it with a process that I'll let someone else explain, but they call it grossing up. And I think that I'm...so I'm going to be in opposition to this amendment. I think that I understand where Senator Beutler is coming from, but I also understand that I had a bargain with the people in my district that this fertilizer tax was going to