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SENATOR BEUTLER: I would, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. And I'd invite you to respond to this, Senator Schrock, also. But I would think that farmers all over the state would be concerned with this particular provision, because it takes a fund that's roughly \$3 million or so, and maybe less by the time the Appropriations Committee gets done with it this session, and instead of having...instead of sharing in the same manner this money all over the state, it's conceivable, for all the control we have over it through this legislation anyway, that the formula for the allocation of this money, even though it will be less money, may be redirected to pick up some very substantial costs in the Republican Valley area, at the expense of soil and water conservation everywhere else in the state. And from your previous answer, I'm not sure if that's what will happen or not. But assuming you expect some result from this amendment, and assuming you expect no more money, no more General Funds to be put into this fund, then one ought to be able to tell us whether the expectation of the introducer, at least, is to change the allocation fund to take money away from soil and water conservation in other areas of the state and put it into ground hydrology studies in the Republican area and other mitigation of consumptive use practices in that particular area. And maybe I should just give you a hypothetical. If no additional money is put into this fund, and nothing else is done with respect to funding Republican area litigation result costs, would you expect the Department of Natural Resources to reallocate this money towards covering those particular costs at the expense of other NRDs in other areas of the state?

SENATOR SCHROCK: The answer is no, Senator Beutler. And I don't even remember the issue of water meters coming up. But I think as you get in the western half of the state, water issues are becoming very urgent. And to the fact that we can spend a little money, I'm saying just a little money, towards finding out what's going on with our water supply, I think it would be appropriate to give the NRDs that flexibility. This is the Soil and Water Conservation Fund. And I think any studies that you can use this money on that would enhance water conservation is very appropriate. I mean, it is the Soil and Water Conservation Fund. I think water conservation is a concern. Now, I didn't