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study, if you will, to look at what kind of a risk/reward there is, what kind of risk there is in contamination of class I's. In particular, this hits me a little bit cold so I'm not prepared, but it's whether there is significant runoff on a very small one I think is subject to discussion. The larger ones, in general, probably do need to have a stepped up rate and when that is analyzed, which I'm not prepared to do at this point, I would be willing to look at it. I think there needs to be some assessment of how much smaller operations do versus the larger ones, and those fees ought to be assessed proportionately. But at this stage, I am very reluctant to add additional burden to agriculture and will oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Chair would recognize Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, I want to stand up in opposition to this amendment. I realize that about everything has been said about it that needs to be said, but I just don't think we need another expense out there. I think Senator Schrock said it real well; if we could figure out some way to lower our property tax, that's what we really need right now, because a lot of people are in desperate need, especially after last year's drought. They didn't raise nothing on the ground and still got to pay the tax whether you take a dime off of it or not, so. And this would just be another added expense for our feedlot operators, and we're trying to get something passed to be a friendly county for livestock and I just am really concerned about doing something more like this. It would just add to it. So I'm in complete opposition to this amendment and I just hope we can vote it down. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Schrock, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I apologize if I got a little huffy but I will tell you it's not easy for me to introduce legislation and then have all the ag organizations come in and oppose it. I did this