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at least put in a system that would effectively see that the amount of the fees that you do assess will continue to be that percentage of the whole cost, which it was originally intended to be. Otherwise, you would probably end up with the same kind of situation that has gone on...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...since 1998, where the amount of fees are taking continually less of the program costs. I don't want, for myself, to see a repeat of the 1998 situation, where the fees were inadequate and then the industry groups refused to fix the problem until this year, to some extent, six years later. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Open for discussion on the Beutler amendment, AM3114. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Beutler amendment. I will tell you, Senator Beutler, that of all that you've listed in your handout, most of the rest of them have the opportunity to pass that along. And I will go back to what I always say: You reduce the tax burden on agriculture so we're on par with the other states around us and I would think that our livestock industry would be glad to pay 100 percent of the cost. For the record, I don't know that LB 775 has done any of our livestock facilities any good, other than help locate some packing facilities in the state. But at any rate, the ag community gets very little in the way of tax incentives in this state. And if we don't pass this bill, there is no annual fee. If we do pass this bill, there will be an annual fee that will approximately cover about 20 percent of the program cost. I don't know what else to say. I do oppose the amendment. I know you offer it in good faith, but with that, I would urge the body to reject this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment, AM3114, to the Natural Resources Committee amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, yes,