

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004 LB 962

that are filed and are pending to the bill. And one of them is LB...or, excuse me, AM3199. And that's an amendment that was voted out of...it's basically an amendment that mirrors a bill that was voted out of the Revenue Committee that allows the NRDs to raise property taxes by an additional...I think it's a penny per \$100 of taxable valuation. Are you still planning on running that amendment and trying to adopt that amendment as well?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I am, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Thank you, Senator Schrock. I think...thank you for answering the question. Listen, here's where we're at, in my mind. The bill has a fiscal note of \$2.5 million this year and \$4.7 million in 2005-2006. And then, if AM3199 is adopted, that would give the 20...I think there's 23 natural resources districts, the ability to raise 1 cent, or increase property taxes by 1 cent per \$100 of evaluation. That's \$9.8 million. So what we are doing, in a time where we have absolutely zero money, the Appropriations Committee and others have recommended we increase property taxes to \$1.10. We have a hazardous waste judgment of \$150 million, probably \$170 million that more likely than not will come due. We're being asked to spend...and I know Senator Schrock and others would say that, well, just because we give the NRDs the authority, that doesn't mean they'll use it. But all of a sudden, this is not a \$2.5 million or a \$4.7 million ongoing project. This is \$14.5 million per year, forever. Water is very, very important to the state. Senator Wehrbein and I are in agreement with that. Senator Schrock and I are in agreement to that. But we're not in agreement when Senator Schrock says, well, the Appropriations Committee has done a good job, and that's where...that's their business, to find out how to fund this. It's not. It's all of our business. And what he is...Senator Schrock is asking us to do is to advance a bill to Select File with a \$14.5 million annual price tag, with no funding mechanism. If any of you have read the Appropriations Committee material there, look at our status in the outlying years. I hope some Appropriations Committee members will get up here and talk about this. I don't think it's appropriate that we advance the bill until the funding mechanism is worked out.