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from the hazardous material industry, and that it should not come from General Funds. I think this same concept applies here. And rather than taking General Funds to fund the NRDs and the NRDs' water quality programs, that it is more appropriate to utilize a fee, a tax on the fertilizers. To do it in the rural areas is no different than we're doing it in the urban areas. Currently, all of those people, I choose not to personally, but those people who buy any kind of herbicides or fertilizers have to pay a sales tax. And those folks are paying a fee on the uses of those speciality chemicals. So it seems that in terms of fairness, if we're collecting sales tax from the urban folks who are paying in and then using that sales tax to then go into General Funds and General Funds pay for the problems in rural areas, somehow seems to be unfair again. So to actually put the tax where the problem begins, working out the details, I think, is not a major issue. There may be different percentages in those rural chemical amounts, and part of it may be water. But the same holds true for the chemicals that are sold in the urban areas. We're paying a sales tax based upon not water or inert contents, we're paying a sales tax based on the actual sale price, which is, I'm sure, far greater and much more of a tax or a tax burden for those people who purchase it that way. The final comment I will make is that I can understand a concern about a sunset on the tax. Those that pay it, on any tax, would like to see it sunset. I would just say to you, though, that the nitrate problem has not sunset and we're not likely to see a sunset on the contamination problem. We have the problem, the problem is primarily in the rural areas. The fees through the NRDs on water quality programs go directly to addressing that problem in the rural areas. The NRDs are an excellent oversight body that are unique in this state, unlike any other state, to work with elected boards...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...right in the communities. And most of those elected officials on the NRDs are agriculturally-based and income-deriving people. So they have a sensitivity, not only to the problem, but to the generating of these fees. I think they do a good job for the most part. I think the fee has been well utilized to do water quality programs that have benefitted in the rural areas, to deal with drinking water particularly, but