

district, then we would allow the taxpayer to pay the same levy limitation that applies as far as groundwater protection is concerned or resources are concerned in any other part of the state. The NRDs are limited to three and a half cents, I believe it is. The groundwater conservation districts are limited to one cent. So, in essence, in an area where you have both, the taxpayer can be assessed a total of four and a half cents. The rest of the state where we have merged those two entities, the limit is three and a half cents. All this amendment would do is say, the limit is still three and a half cents. If you have got a groundwater conservation district within your borders of an NRD, then the total levy limit for both of you on that land that falls in both districts is three and a half cents. I think it is a logical amendment. I think it is a logical way to fund the two. If they think that they can't merge them and it is important to them, then, at least, recognize that the cost of those shouldn't be any greater than it is anywhere else in the state. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I won't take much time, just to say that as with any program or any subdivision, if you don't have the money to fund the programs, they are no good to anyone and I am assuming that if you take away the dollars to support the programs, the programs are useless to the farmer and to the goals that we have set or they have set for this particular area of the state and I just would urge the body to reject the amendment and, hopefully, get back to the bill and advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, Mr. President, I also urge you to not support this amendment. At the present time the groundwater districts are separate in this particular area from the cities and they are actually taxing themselves to help themselves and to help the cities, really, because if they are finding a way to control this nitrate, I think it would be very important to many of the communities around there. So I just can't see how they can operate on what you are doing if you support this amendment. You are just killing the district. That is what you are doing. So I urge you not to support the amendment.