

It worked out pretty well. You could have easily had substituted one of my amendments. I allowed Senator Dierks to substitute one and I allowed other substitution, I would have been pleased to have allowed you to substitute. As of this time, the offer is off.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Dierks. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to...I guess I'll support the reconsideration. I don't support the idea of taxing the fertilizer. Unfortunately I had to be in a meeting with a DEC in the town of Sterling last night when this was considered and the tax on fertilizer is something I do not support, made that fairly clear the other day when we were discussing other options to energy taxes and other things and from a strictly parochial view, I don't have a lot of irrigators in my district, but I've got a lot of people that apply fertilizer. And I understand how they apply their fertilizer, when they apply it and how they will, they purchase it now and how they will purchase it after this bill goes into effect. So I'll support the reconsideration and then oppose it later because it is drafted in such a way that it probably won't raise near as much money as we think it will unless the farmers are really as bunch of seeds out there, which some of us may agree with and some of us would not agree with. One thing they are is when they are good businessmen and women and they have a very small profit margin, very small profit margin, they see ways of lining up their work in a way they can avoid extra expenses in the future. So, I oppose the bill from the position, or the amendment from the position that fertilizers and chemicals are being looked at to be taxed in this body in the future for other reasons, reasons that I could possibly support, reasons directly related to the environment and clean groundwater, reasons that make sense. To go from taxing irrigators or the energy use that in my district is pretty much the larger operations to taxing the smaller operations is not something I can support. It's the little guy thing again. We've met the little guy and he is us. He's definitely my farmers in my district. With this amendment you are attempting to tax the smaller operators who also happen to be for the most part the operators that are having the hardest time getting by with a profit margin. To tax fertilizer for this reason is not something I can support especially when you are going to be coming back. There are existing bills in the body now and there