

getting federal approval. It sounds as if we've come a long way in this act from whence we started and that there is a considerable amount of support both from environmental groups and agricultural groups. So I'm going to have to ask Senator Beutler so that I fully understanding where we're going here. Referring to what Senator Baack referenced on page 12 of the bill to the requirement that the Department of Ag confer with these other departments, number one, is that...does that get us maybe three-quarters of the way there, I guess, would be my question, or does it get towards the resolution of the environmental concerns? And, number two, if we go the next step and require that these departments be involved in developing the management plan, will that delay the process to the point where it will be difficult for it to achieve approval on the federal level and then, of course, obviously, we wouldn't delay the federal funds coming in and we'd be left with a program that would not be funded out of federal funds and we'd have a General Fund implication? I guess the first question is, is this, is your idea, your amendment a panacea or can we get along without it at this point or do you feel strongly that we need it in order to comply with the federal rules and regulations? If you'd just answer that, a question of Senator Beutler, Madam President.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, Senator Ashford, let me take your questions in reverse order and tell you what my understanding is and we will have recourse to the federal statutes and the federal rules and regulations as to what the correct answer is. I spent the weekend reading the federal statutes. Nowhere, to my knowledge, in the federal statutes does it say that a generic ground water management plan is required by the state, okay? What it does say is that there has to be a pesticide plan, that is a plan for labeling and certification of applicators across the state. Those are the two separate plans provided for in this bill. Beyond this bill, there is a third plan out there that is somewhat more comprehensive that is trying to bring in a lot of different elements into a ground water protection plan. Now one of those elements is the pesticides portion. However, that pesticides portion is more than just a small part. It's probably the key to our future in terms of the protection of ground water. So the question is with regard to this portion that has to do with pesticides, is that going to be governed by the Department of Agriculture or isn't that broad enough and important enough that the play ought to be equally approved by the Department of Environmental Quality which is, after all, in