

generally funded by a levy on property. One of the other handouts you will see that is a map from the Central Platte NRD, using 1972 valuations, which is the latest composite that we could secure, delineates for you the difference in terms of taxpayers contribution toward the NRD levy. In some places in the Central Platte it's as much as ten-to-one, a rural election...elector paying 10,400, and an urban paying 1,400. I bring this amendment really to talk about that. If...if we are assuming that the NRDs have changed in their function and therefore we have to say one person one vote must be the case, I also believe that's based on an assumption that there's a dilution of vote. The Supreme Court, in a case several years ago, 1976 in fact, Hammer versus the NRDs, held that the plaintiffs must show that this type of election scheme does, in fact, operate to minimize or dilute the votes of the particular residents within the subdivision. They found that it did not. Therefore, I guess I would place that responsibility on Senator Beutler to give us evidence here that in fact a dilution of the vote does exist, what evidence he has that indicates that there is a dilution of vote, that we should change a time-honored system for dealing with our resources within the NRDs. I would like to state just one other assumption that I think this amendment is attempting to address, and that's a significant change in the historical philosophy of the NRDs. The NRDs were established, according to this system of more than one person one vote, because of the necessity of the goodwill of the landowner. In my NRDs, unlike I believe Senator Beutler's NRD, most of the land is...most of the property still comes from the rural landowners. The population shift has not been such that the bulk of the taxes are generated from urban areas, and most of the projects of my NRDs still deal with soil conservation, issues of water quality and quantity, flood control, and therefore the goodwill of the landowner is still an essential consideration to be made when we talk about changing something that has been considered one of the best systems in the nation to a one person one vote approach, mandated by us here in the Legislature. The NRDs do, just as a review, have authority now to move to one person one vote if they so choose. However, those that do not tend to be those that still have the bulk of their taxing power within the rural population. At this time I would close. Senator Coordsen, would you like the remaining time? If not, I'd answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator McKenzie and Senator Coordsen. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Wesely.