

and closing others, and I guess I would open up my time to you to discuss that further; what the state's obligation might be in the future relative to this issue, not specifically to 1257, but to the overall solid waste problem that we have in the state in being able to make changes in the way we dispose of waste in this state, and what it is going to cost us, and are there going to be any funding proposals offered this session in cooperation with 1257 to help the local municipalities to pay for their share or those portions of their share of updating their landfills, or a closure or postclosure of their landfills?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Johnson. The funding of the department, itself, will be paid through application fees, license fees, and disposal fees that are now at \$1.25 a ton, of which the department would get half, for staffing. We want the department to be staffed because of the reasons we discussed earlier, so we can be an agreement state. Everyone wants to be an agreement state. Everyone wants the DEC to manage their program as opposed to the EPA. So that is how we will fund it, through a cash fund. I have an appropriation bill to follow that is cash fund raised through garbage fees and disposal fees, and I also have provided the ability through the NIFA amendment we made for privates and public to go and apply for low-interest loans to build the facilities. We have given them the ability to join together and form agencies, and with their ability, with that ability and their financing ability as cities, counties, et cetera, to seek bonding to help raise the money to plan, equip, build, and maintain through disposal fees their facilities. We have given the option. There is no state money in LB 1257 for construction. No state money in 1257 for planning. You can get, through the tire fund, you can get...apply for grants that could help you with a portion of that, possibly buy a compactor for you, or possibly buy something to help you in a recycling effort, or something to help in other efforts. But there is no state money in LB 1257. It is all cash funded on disposal fees and permit fees. There is no state money to help build, design, construct, purchase facilities and equipment. That is all done locally and that is the way LB 1257 is, and if you think you can get some state money, I would be willing to listen and wish you a lot of good luck. I don't think Senator Moore would buy onto that. I don't see him here, but I think the way we structured this gives the local people the ability to raise the money they need to build their own facilities. The DEC or the federal government mandates are driving the costs. Those costs will drive