

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Hartnett, Schimek, Vrtiska, and Byars. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. LB 203, as Senator Beutler explained, is a bit of a compromise at this point. Originally, I brought 203 to the Natural Resources Committee for the purpose of eliminating a fee that was implemented in 1990 by this Legislature in LB 163. And what LB 163 did was institute, among some other things, a retail business fee to go into the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. That fee goes only to retailers and that fee says if you have sales of under \$200,000 a year, you pay a 25 dollar tax. If you have sales over \$200,000 a year, you pay a tax of \$50 a year. The tax was not implemented until 1992, so last year a couple of constituents of mine called me up in July and later in the year and said, what the heck is this retail fee that I have to pay. You know, I think I'm paying probably more than my fair share, and now because I'm in the retail business, I have this additional fee that I have to pay. I have to fill out the paperwork, and by the way, the paperwork is so confusing on how much I sold and what qualifies as a retail sale, and what qualifies as a nonretail sale, I had my accountant look at it and he said, let's just say...let's just send the \$50 in. It is cheaper for me to send the \$50 in than to have my accountant figure out how to fill out this paperwork. So I have to be very honest with you, I had no idea what they were talking about. This was a fee that I...my first reaction was, was this something I voted for, and luckily enough, it wasn't because it happened the year before I came into the Legislature. But we looked into it and the Nebraska Legislature, in 1990, did institute in an attempt to deal with the environment and some good projects that need to be dealt with on recycling and waste reduction, came up with singling out the retail people in the State of Nebraska to pay this additional fee in order to raise some money. And if you go through the Nebraska statutes, and you look at how much money we are raising for reduction...of recycling and incentive funds, we have the retail business fee, which raises \$600,000. We have the tire fee which raises a million, three. We have the disposal or the tipping fee that started, I think, last year or this year, \$940,000. Again, you have the other half of the disposal fee for another \$940,000 going into effect in '92. You have the landfill licensing fee for \$10,000. You have the air emissions in 1995 coming up,