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it before you raise taxes? So it's an economist type of thing. On one hand, if you do this, it's going to raise taxes. On the other hand, if you already have the money, why are you taxing me more to make up for something that you could use that money, at least in the temporary situation? And so it's...it's kind of like that. I recognize that the money was set aside for this, and it does put the problem out into the future potentially if there's not enough money to close these sites. On the other hand, we don't know where the end is. The end is not particularly in sight...in sight. That money is sitting there. In theory, that money will...is...is and will be earning interest that will more than make up for the loss of this \$6 million in terms of the amount that was paid in. So, at this point in time, it seemed to us and the committee as the recommendation from the Governor, that we do take this this time. It does put off a potential problem well off into the future, but in the short term, it solves a...a current dilemma. The amount of money that was used represents, as I said, one-half year of revenue. If you get much beyond that, it will...it might impact projects on an annual basis but one-half a year of revenue is...is somewhat reasonable at this point or is reasonable, and that's the point...that's the amount that we decided to go with. So, with that, I'm going to oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I...I just want to comment briefly. I think there's two reasons why the fund balance is where it is. And one is that in '98 we increased the...the gas tax from six-tenths of a gallon to nine-tenths of a gallon, and the diesel fuel tax from two-tenths to three-tenths. And, at the same time, we saw some different management techniques start to become applied in DEQ, and those management techniques involve doing more investigations as to the severity and danger of a site without just pell-mell going in to clean up every site that came on the radar screen. So we slowed down the expenditures of money for actual cleanup, and began to use the money for investigations, which was given a priority use of the funds, and we increased the collections of revenue pretty dramatically, and so we went from \$5 million in