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FLOOR DEBATE

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as the Natural Resources Committee counsel. It does address the concern that I had expressed about having some type of process set up to deal with the tires once they've been damaged through the race process. They're there to help in saving lives and reducing injuries to drivers. So using the tires in and of itself is not a problem. But clearly, vectors, and mosquito larvae was one of the issues of concern that I raised, they're going to be covering these tires, apparently, so that should keep water out of them. Hopefully, they'll drill a hole in the side of the tire, so if those plastic barriers do break, the water can still automatically run out and leak down and not accumulate. The other concern, and Senator Beutler raised this as well, was that the tires, once they've been impacted by the automobiles, need to be properly disposed of. This amendment is the attempt to address that, and at the same time allow the operator of the racetrack to operate their first race, I believe it's in June or early July of this coming summer. To get a plan approved in that short a time frame would perhaps be not possible or very difficult or create a time crunch for the racetrack operator, as well as NDEQ. So this amendment is one way of attempting to address that issue, to have a plan submitted to NDEQ, but at the same time, in the future, should this come up again, they...any additional racetrack operators would have to not only submit a plan, but it would need to be approved in advance of using the tires in this fashion. So I appreciate the effort of Senator Burling in dealing with this issue, his staff and also Natural Resources' staff. And at this point, this amendment, I think, helps clarify, and I am generally supportive of it. I am also generally supportive of Senator Burling's bill, LB 818. However, there's another bill that is apparently being amended onto this bill that's coming to follow, and I do have a problem with that bill, which would allow our grant funds to go into funding tire-derived fuel. Essentially, it's amounting to special legislation for one facility, and a facility that, from the data that I have, certainly raises some questions. And when we get to that amendment, I will be proposing some amendments to that amendment, and will be taking that one very seriously, when currently this amendment and this bill, I think, are okay. So for now, I'm supporting AM2258. And in the current form of LB 818, and the current amendment, AM2258, I am supportive.