

amendments and I hope I can continue to support the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just wanted to visit a little bit with you about what Senator Nelson's concerns are. Should understand that the people who provide the herbicides for the state must pay a registration fee, as do all agricultural toxins or poisons or chemicals. We have done a little survey around the states that surround us and the average of all the states around us comes to the neighborhood of \$70.00 per registration. Currently, we're charging 10, and we, with this bill, would charge 40, which still doesn't bring us up to the average of the states around us. The high state is Iowa at \$125.00 per registration. So I don't believe we're stepping out of bounds when we do this...when we do this with this bill. The thing we have to remember when Senator Schmit talks about conflicting courses, and I think that he is right, I think we have lots of problems nationally with use of herbicides and even many just straight fertilizer products that we use on our fields with water contamination and even plant contamination, the thing we have to realize is I think we have to put the grease where the squeak is and right now there is a terrible squeak out there on this spurge problem and I think that there are others almost right behind, leafy spurge, spotted...or Russian knapweed and probably even field bindweed. But there is a great necessity right at this time to get this legislation in place and that's why I selected it for my priority bill. I think that if you realize that even though we do get this money from the herbicide companies, ultimately, it will be the user who will pay for it because those costs will be reflected in the sale price of the product. So I don't think we really place that much of a burden on the herbicide companies. I think that the burden actually falls back on the landowner in the long run. So, with that, I would just like to urge your passing of the committee amendments and eventually the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate all of your patience this morning with my discussion of the bill. I think that it's necessary that we talk about these things. This is a very important piece of legislation and it's going to be very costly. We have counties out there who are going to resist