

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and DEC and pay his share of remedial action cost before the fund pays any cost. Mr. President, I am almost finished. With the indulgence of the body, I would like to just take another minute. It further requires that DEC must first approve a plan for remedial action before any cost of the plan will be reimbursed. Section 26 ensures that payment to a responsible person for remedial services provided by a person who has cleaned up a leak cannot be attached by a creditor or the responsible person. Section 28 requires the Department of Environmental Control to cooperate to obtain federal funding to carry out the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act, and Section 29 integrates the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act into current law. Mr. President, it would also carry the emergency clause. That roughly explains the amendments and which is, of course, at the present time the bill, and we can now attempt to try to answer any of the rest of your questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion? Senator Coordsen, followed by Senators Elmer, Smith, Hartnett.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. My name is on this bill. Senator Smith addressed a number of the concerns that have been expressed by people on the language of the bill, but let's not let that detract us from the importance of the issue that is facing us with regard to problems that may exist in underground storage facilities across the State of Nebraska and how that may well impact all of the people that we represent. The Environmental Protection Agency, when they issued their regulations requiring the financial responsibility of all owners of underground tanks, made an estimate that the regulations would, in fact, close 45 percent of the service stations in the United States. There was recently a news article in the paper where the Environmental Protection Agency had upped that estimate to 80 percent of what we would call filling stations in the State of Nebraska, or in the United States, not the State of Nebraska. I have had a personal experience of having our community filling station close through financial problems, not from any contamination reason, but it brought home to me the importance of a service station in a small community, whether that community is out in rural Nebraska, or whether it is the corner filling station in the area of what we fondly refer to as urban Nebraska. Most of these people do not have the gallonage to cover the cost of providing the financial responsibility that is going to be