

Environmental Control which would make them become almost I guess economists. They would not...we wanted to be able to keep...take control of what it was they were going to be doing with these folks when they were looking at cleanup out there. I have a concern about third party liability, which is, to me, not at all addressed in this bill, for those innocent parties who, let's say that someone says there is a leak...in someone's gas station that there was a release. They go out there and check and then they also say, well, it has gone over to this other person's property. What about that third person? Do they have the responsibility for the cleanup? Why should they have to pay for it? Those are some of the questions that we have had that we really can't get answers to. I was just visiting with Senator Schmit. He is very, very frustrated and is in a much better position of trying...of understanding the issue than myself, for sure, and feels that we simply have not got the answers to this issue yet, and still we are in a position where we must do something, and that is the dilemma we are faced with right now. So I want to address the third party liability issue before we move this bill on Final Reading, but I just want to alert you to the fact that this is no small matter we are dealing with here, and yet there is a need for us to do something because we must do something to help those small station owners to survive. If we don't, we can create another Great American Desert in rural Nebraska, and rural Nebraska, as you know, is nearly all of the state because we have little communities even within our own areas here, but it would be even harder on those folks out in the really rural parts if their little one station closed in their community and there was no access to...in fact I know of places where that is true even in here where I am at right now, down towards the Kansas border, where, for instance, their school buses have to go to another community to get their gasoline and they have to have storage of gasoline. So these are the kinds of problems that we are facing, and the requirements that are being placed on these little gas station owners right now for how they have to...let's say they have to worry about digging up those barrels, the gas barrels, the huge storage tanks. The cost of reinstating them which meets the regulations and the requirements that have been placed upon them is so much that, in many cases, they will never recoup the money that they are going to have to put in that replacement, and so, again, this is going to cause some of them to have to close. So it is really...it is just a really frustrating problem but we have to all in here put our wits together and get some good input from everyone. Don't just let