

let's not forget some of the homeowners. Some of the homeowners have underground tanks. Some of them aren't being used anymore but these underground tanks used to contain fuel oil that they heated their houses with years ago and then they switched to natural gas. So we may have some of these little old fuel tanks that are leaking. In fact, I had a constituent called me and says, well I know that I have an underground tank and I don't know whether it was pumped dry when we discontinued using it, what should we do about it? And I says, well, before you remove it, you'd better let us get a fund in place because if it's leaked very much fuel oil out, well you're certainly going to have a problem. But most of the service stations do keep an inventory control and with fuel prices going up and a lot of it over a dollar a gallon now you can bet your boots that they'll take...they'll really watch their inventory and stick read the particular tank every day. But I feel that we need to do something and by adopting this amendment I think at least it's a start. We're going in the right direction and I know we may have to add more amendments as we go along, but let's get started on it. What are the other states doing about this? Iowa has proposed a bill and I think by now it's passed, but they are charging a half a cent a gallon to put in that fund and then they may use a bonding procedure if the losses get too great. I know that Kansas is working on a bill this year in their legislature and there's many other states that are trying to do about the same thing that we're doing with this bill. So I would urge you to adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Schmit...could I ask a question of Senator Schmit, please?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator, I'm sorry.

SENATOR SMITH: That's all right. Thank you, Senator Schmit, regarding...I was going to speak on the concern again about the small businesses that Senator Don Wesely brought to us, but I wanted to ask a question. If we were to establish this fund and...let's see, it's the first 25,000, but isn't it only a percentage of the first 25,000 that they'd have to pay, 25 percent of it?