

SENATOR SMITH: ...of getting that kind of insurance and what the cost would be?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, we've been looking into it. We do not have the answer yet and we hope that, and I know the time is getting late and I apologize again, but we hope that before Select File we will have some of those answers and if we don't have, Senator Smith, then you certainly have a very valid concern and a very deep-seated concern which is shared by many of us.

SENATOR SMITH: Yeah. Senator Schmit, isn't it, from what we've...in our discussions that we've had in the committee, I think it's also very accurate for us to state that if, in fact, we can't do something of this nature, it's probably very plausible that those small operators would not be as prone to report leaks that they may be aware of as they may be to try to cover them up. I mean, it would be just a natural thing for them to do that, wouldn't it?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'm sorry, Senator, would you repeat the question. I'm sorry.

SENATOR SMITH: If we can't find something, some sort of insurance coverage for the small operators and for the small owners, whoever has a storage tank, they would be more prone to cover up than to report a release, wouldn't they, and you can't really blame them for doing that.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, indeed.

SENATOR SMITH: So if we're concerned about the environment and contamination, I guess I believe that this is really a public concern. This is a concern of all of us. I'm not even sure that going the route of charging the petroleum industry is the right answer, although I think they were, you know, they're willing to do it at this point from what I understand and so that's okay with me, but the larger issue to me is the concern of all of us as public and I think that we're going to have to look at this whole issue of contamination of the environment and whatever that may be of our natural resources and figure out some way that we as the public who really stand to benefit by the cleanup, take hold of the issue and be willing to be responsible for it as a whole. Thank you.