

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend, but he would move to suspend the germaneness rule so as to permit consideration of the amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I would ask for your indulgence for just a moment and I hope that you will pay attention to what I am saying because I am asking the body to consider suspending rules for the purposes of, basically, taking a bill and putting it into this bill. I introduced the bill, LB 163, that dealt with solid waste management. It creates a Solid Waste Management Fund which would be supported by a couple of different funding sources. I have spoken with Senator Baack. He seems to have a loss of memory on when, in fact, whether he consented or not to allow me to do this, but anyway he says he has no objection to me at least trying because there is no question there is a germaneness question here. I think the better part of valor is to go ahead and ask for the suspension of the rules rather than to ask the Speaker to rule on the germaneness of this amendment. Let me...I passed around, on your desk there is a copy of a cover letter from me that explains the bill or the amendment and the contents of the amendment. I will quickly go through that for you. First of all, the amendment would...there is some intent language that starts off basically talking about why we need to establish a program such as this. Secondly, it talks about the state providing purchase preference for recyclable products in the state; provides an exemption in cases where those purchases would be more expensive than buying, or inadequate quality. It creates the fund, as I talked about, the Waste Reduction Recycling Incentive Fund where the money that is collected would go into it. The funding sources of the program would be the sale by the state of recyclable and reusable products, materials and supplies. A fee that would be imposed upon every new tire sold in this state, that would constitute about \$2 million. It also asks for an annual fee to be imposed upon businesses, I believe 25 and 50 dollars depending on the size of the business, and that is in Section 12 of the bill, and then it goes into how the funds might be used, how to apply for the grants, the application procedures, the application information that is necessary, the responsibilities and the direction that the Director of the Department of Environmental Control must follow. As I said again, it goes into the intent of the distribution of the dollars and the agreements that will be reached upon these