

projects, the specifics of the agreements, and then goes into discussion of the fee on the tires. It will be a \$1 fee on every new tire sold in the state, and a fee of \$1 would be imposed on every tire on a new motor vehicle. The changes in what this amendment compared to LB 163 that introduced are four basic areas. One, of course, we deleted one funding source which was a fee on newsprint. It was not a sizeable money or revenue generator to begin with, and there was some objection from the Nebraska Press Association that it might not be constitutional to impose this fee. So the committee, in fact, chose to strike that and we do as well in this amendment. There are three changes in the amendment from the original bill. We delete all references to grants to private entities. There was some concern about the bill being challenged as a violation of lending the credit of the state, so we deleted all those references to private groups. It changes the collection procedure on tire fee for motor vehicles. This was brought to us by the New Car and Truck Dealers Association. They felt it might be easier if the fee was collected at the time that the automobile was registered, and that way could be collected by the county treasurer, which we have implemented those changes in this amendment and, third, it adds additional language authorizing the use of the fund for administrative costs for the Department of Revenue in implementing collection of the two fees. And that is the amendment, per se. This is a very important issue to the State of Nebraska. We have some very serious solid waste management problems in our state. It does not ask to repeal the Whitney amendment which has been very controversial for many years, but it does, I think, provide an incentive funding program for many of our small communities across the state to move in a direction of either recycling or moving toward regionalization of their landfill problems. There are a number of organizations that are supporting 163, the League of Municipalities, the City of Omaha, the Nebraska Recyclers Association, the Nebraska Coalition of Hazardous Waste, the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, the T.O. Haas Tire Company, the Kiwanis Club, and I can go on and on, but there is support for this concept, and I think it would be a step in the right direction. A few years ago this body did pass a bill that would provide for an assessment and classification of the solid waste problems we have in the state. That assessment and classification process has been completed. We have had a report back. It has told us we have some very serious problems with solid waste management, and it is time the State of Nebraska dealt with the problem. This is one way, it is not the only