

going to have some businesses that are going to go out of business. There are going to be some small communities left without fuel service and that does not mean just the community itself, it means the surrounding farming area. I think that, you know, in listening to the debate we have to remember that the intent of the bill, the bill itself was to assist as far as possible in the preservation of those small businesses and doing what we could to help them. That is the purpose of the bill. And you know, I think he's brought out a very valid point here, the fact that you have some businesses, through no fault of their own because of a federal ruling or requirement which was placed upon these businesses to comply, were doing what they thought they should be doing, what they had to do, in fact, and now through the course of this, they have spent some money and discovered that somewhere down the line before they ever installed the tanks which were not leaking, there was a leak. You know, who is responsible? And that's the question that we've dealt with with so many other issues in this committee which makes it so hard for us to deal with the surfacing many, many issues that we have around this whole area of contamination, not just in this one area alone. And I guess I feel really strongly that, and I've said this before on the floor, if we had this concern, we should have this concern as a society, if you want to call it that, not only in Nebraska, but across the nation. But we here in Nebraska, if we as citizens believe that we have a problem that we have to deal with, I think that we should as citizens figure out that we need to help all of those people that are involved and then it should be a cost that comes back to all of us one way or the other over time. I really believe this is a fairness issue. These people are not asking, in my understanding, by the Warner amendment for anything prior to the time the bill becomes effective. They are saying once the bill becomes effective, let us get some benefits from that part of it then that we can get from here on with the other costs that we do have which is the same thing we're trying to do to the other businesses that we're impacting on in the bill. Based on that, I've decided that I will support the Warner amendment and I hope others of you will decide that's a good way to go. Thank you. I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Smith, I think that it's unfortunate that today many of the