

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, we have introduced this resolution mostly as a result of the introduction and passage of LB 289, which we hope will pass this morning, but which I have cautioned all of you and which most of my colleagues who have been familiar with the contents of the bill have also joined me in cautioning you to recognize that this bill will, in fact, cause some difficulty and some hardships for people across the State of Nebraska as it is implemented by the very fact that the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency are such that in some instances businesses may actually be put out of business, individuals may suffer substantial losses. And it is sort of ironic in this year, the year of the property tax relief effort, that many individuals will find themselves spending many times as much money to protect their businesses by virtue of the passage of a bill such as this as they will receive back in tax rebates. But, nonetheless, in the name of the environment and the name of all of the other things that are good, we march forward with this type of legislation. So we are asking that there be a review of this type of legislation to determine if, in fact, it is as necessary as we've been told it is and to determine if there may be some other possibilities. I'm deeply concerned, and I think that many others on this floor share that concern with me, that we seem to believe that man can impose himself or herself upon nature and still retain that pristine environment that we all like to cherish. Therefore, there is some way in which we can make this requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency a little less odious, then I certainly would ask that we could do so. Would take one more minute and point out that my own hometown of David City was fined some time ago, going to have to pay the fine this week, \$2,500 because of a mechanical breakdown of our sanitary sewage treatment plant, which resulted in a discharge of some raw sewage into a creek which resulted in the deaths of some fish which were valued at \$107. And we were fined, in David City, \$2,500, not because the fish were so valuable but because we did not properly and promptly report that failure of the equipment. I just want to emphasize that it is very, very difficult for the average citizen to keep abreast of all of the rules, regulations and statutes which we impose upon them, and I know that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but I would just like to point out that many times that people who have to do the every day work keeping our country going probably don't have the time to sit down and read every single