

area of tire recycling and reduction and nothing else to help with landfill, transfer stations, market development, other recycling projects for solid waste problems, you have cut almost all the funding source that we need. And the original reason that I brought the funding sources, the three funding sources that I did, was that I wanted it to be autonomous from the General Fund. I didn't want to have to, year in and year out, come to this Legislature and try and get \$3 million from the body, because from year to year, as we know, the economy fluctuates, the revenue collection fluctuates, and I wanted a constant source that was renewable year in and year out, because tires are going to continue to be boughten by people, business, retail businesses are going to continue to function, and we need the money to help these smaller communities, in particular, meet the changing needs that they are going to have in the solid waste area. I have carried a bill on solid waste almost every year I have been here for eight years, and one of the stumbling blocks that we have always heard from the municipalities, in particular, is that we financially cannot handle this. We cannot close our landfill and develop a new landfill or go into some regional concept because it just is going to be too costly. We can't ask the property taxpayers in our community for additional dollars. So we came up with the idea of trying to provide some financial incentive to help these communities move forward, and that is the reason for the three fees that were originally in the bill. Now it is down to two, but if you take the largest part of the fees and specifically earmark those only for tire recycling and reduction, then there is relatively no other money, only about 750,000, and that may be high, from the business fee that can be spent on other projects, other than tire recycling and reduction. And so I would ask the body to reject this idea. It doesn't mean that a political subdivision cannot use the money in this area. I would like to have the bill a little more open so that other projects could qualify for funding from this fund. The University of Nebraska I know has been approached by different individuals to look at taking old tires and burning them to use as energy to provide the energy needs of the University of Nebraska campus. And so I think there are some things going on privately that may address some of these concerns that Senator Beck has, but on this particular amendment, I guess I would have to ask that the body reject it at this time and leave a more open-ended bill so that more projects would qualify.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by