

tire problem. I will offer amendments, I have them on file, that will come up, maybe not today, maybe the next time around, that will address setting priorities on how this money should be spent, and it does talk about including a tire recycling plan, but I don't think at this time we can afford to focus the money collected off of these tires strictly on the problem of eliminating tires from our landfills and recycling tires and the reuse of tires. Rubber, leather, and wood products, I believe, make up 6 to 7 percent of our landfill makeup. Paper and paperboard products make up 38, depending on which book you read, 30 to 38 percent of the landfill makeup. We need to address, as Senator Schmit said, all of the problems and all of the products that are produced and taxes, such as these, are a way of encouraging waste reduction, which I feel is the first step we must take. But to focus the money simply on tires I think is wrong because the tires, even though it is collected off of tires, do not make up that large a percentage of the waste. And I do agree with Senator Beck, as a child growing up at a gas station, one of my principal playgrounds was a huge pile of old used tires, and we used to sit there fascinated for hours in looking at those little bugs squiggling around in the water wondering what the heck they were. When we come later in the summer and jump on that same pile of tires, a huge swarm of mosquitoes would rise out of the pile and carry you off. So that is definitely a problem, and I'll agree with that. But I think we need to focus our money on getting a state plan in place and helping our communities to get a state plan in place that would allow them to set up their own processes that are directed directly at their community. All the...the solution to this is going to be different all the way across the state, from Chadron to Falls City, Auburn, Lincoln, Omaha, every one solution will be different. I think we need to set up a state plan that will give them some guidelines that will be flexible enough that will allow them to do what they must do locally, but will also give them incentive to reach for the things, such as, Senator Beck's 25 percent recycling. I would like to tell Senator Schmit I also have on file up there an amendment that would read, would put the newsprint back in. The Nebraska Press Association had argued that it was discriminatory. Well, I would say the tire people could argue the same thing. No matter what we do on a product fee, unless we put all products in at this time, someone can holler "discrimination". Tires is a small percentage. Paper is a larger percentage, and I think the largest tax in my district of a newspaper would be \$60 a year. My smallest newspaper would incur a tax of \$3 a year. I don't