

think this is too restrictive. I don't think it would close these papers down. The World-Herald and the Journal has come out recently with very positive articles towards waste reduction, waste management, recycling.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: And the purpose of the people that we need to address this problem, but yet they are basically saying, not me. It is a problem but not in my backyard, if you will. I don't want to be included in this. It is everyone's problem and I think we need to address it as everyone's problem. We need to focus the money on a plan and not on one single part of the waste stream. So I would urge you to oppose Senator Beck's amendment at this time.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, and members, I am glad that we are having this conversation at this point, because even though we are talking about Senator Beck's amendment which would narrow the definition of what money could be spent in what direction, I think the important thing is that we are recognizing that there are some substantial concerns out there, and that there is some question about where the funds should come from and who is going to be the most or what fund is going to be the most equitable to everyone. And I am more than willing to work with Senator Schmit and Senator Morrissey and others to broaden that base of support to other areas, if, in fact, there is a fee or mechanism that we can work with to spread out the support. Obviously, the easiest thing to do is come in the body and ask for General Fund support, but the chance of that happening are not very good. And so, as I have said, we have asked to try and develop a funding mechanism that utilizes a fee source away from the General Fund that can be constant year in and year out. To highlight why I am concerned about this amendment, there was a study done by DEC back in 1986 to do a classification and assessment of the landfill problem we have in the state. At that point, DEC found 359 open dumps in the State of Nebraska in 1986. That figure is down to about 280 active unlicensed landfills in the state in 1990. Well, sooner or later, either through action in this body or action by the EPA, those unlicensed landfills are going to be closed or are going to have to be licensed, and it is going to take money to do those kinds of things. And I think the problem is, you take