

rise in support of Senator Scofield's amendment simply because of some of the things I have seen developing, some of the trends. There seems to be a trend in the country for...in the case of, say, waste disposal, hazardous waste disposal of one sort or another for these large corporations that generate some of this waste to support or set up even a small company to dispose of that waste. And that small company, many times, in all the reading I have been forced to do in the last year or so, is on financially shaky grounds, and thus, if through the storage of this waste, or whatever, something should happen and they go under, then what happens? These folks go under, declare bankruptcy, they're gone. And they may have had a history of doing this in the past. I think what Senator Scofield is trying to do is correct, we need to study these folks, we need to study their history, we need to study their past and we need to take a look at some of these alarming trends that are moving across the country in these disposal facilities. So I would support Senator Scofield in her effort.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Owen Elmer.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to just continue this discussion that Senator Landis raises, because the point he makes is...I take seriously. But from what we have looked at, at this point, and maybe Senator Landis can respond, I think he's preoccupied at the moment, but the only thing that we can find that involves the kind of background check that I think is in the best interest of taxpayers, to make sure that they don't get stuck with the tab, Senator Landis, is a surety bond. We haven't been able to find anything else that satisfies that kind of a requirement. And it seems to me that there is always the temptation to come in and take a risk and say, well, if everything goes wrong, I'll be gone and the good old taxpayer can be there and they can pick it up. And often that happens 10, 20, 30 years down the road. And we are seeing some examples of that right now with other environmental accidents that you and I and the people we represent are going to pay for. And so this is an initial step in that direction to try to assure that we have thoroughly checked out these activities and to make sure that the polluter pays, that the taxpayer does not pay. If you'd care to have the rest of my time to comment on that, if there is another mechanism, I'd like to hear about it. But we haven't been able to find anything else.