

I, too, just join the others in support of Senator Johnson's amendment. Mine will come later concerning the tires and I appreciate Senator Schellpeper's support of that, and I think that as it is brought before the body later, it will be supported. I just want to thank Senator Johnson for his work and for his patience with all of us on this bill that he initially began. He has been very gracious, he and his staff, and we have spent a lot of time working on this, and I just support his amendments and support the bill, and I hope that the entire body will. I think it is time that we got this and we really desperately need it here in Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment? Senator Johnson, would you care to close.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As has been stated, I think the amendment has support from most of the parties involved in the discussion of this issue on General File. As has been noted, not everybody got everything they wanted in this amendment, but we will get a chance I think to debate some of those other concepts later. But the key is, as I have stated from the beginning, that we have to find a way of providing some incentives to our political subdivisions to do a better job of handling solid waste in this state than what we have done in the past. Every year I have been here practically I have sponsored a bill dealing with solid waste or the environment, and every year I have been told this is not the year to do that, we can't afford to do that, and a variety of other excuses. Well, the time is coming rapidly, as Senator Morrissey has said, when the issue over the Whitney amendment and others will become a moot point because the federal government is going to eventually supersede whatever we might do in this body and force us to begin the process of licensing our landfills in this state. And if we are going to concede that fact, then I think it is important that we find a mechanism to help financially provide the incentives to a lot of the smaller communities in particular upgrade their landfills so that they can meet those standards that are going to be set by the federal government and, hopefully, by our own state. As Senator Morrissey has said, giving some direction, some plan to our communities I think is vitally important, but how we do that is unclear at this time, but this amendment helps, I think, make the bill a little bit better. Yes, I would much prefer to ask for two or three million dollars from the General Fund than out of the fee on tires and business fees, but the fact is, I don't