

by the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you. Senator Morrissey, on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, if it's eleven-thirty, it must be time to address 163. About every five days at eleven-thirty, 163 hits the agenda and we address the problem of solid waste management one amendment at a time. That has been typical of how we have addressed the problem in the past, peck away at it a little bit at a time. Folks, I think it's really time for us to embrace this issue, declare it a priority and decide what we're going to do and what those priorities are. Senator Hefner's amendment, the previous amendment, I agree it was a great idea, it's a good idea, something we should think about. I voted against it. This amendment is possibly a good idea. It's something we should think about; other issues, some things we should think about. And, as I said, I don't necessarily disagree with these ideas but I think we're being premature. Senator Johnson has worked a long time on this issue and has worked hard on it and he has provided a good start. I attempted and was successful in adding a planning effort in Nebraska's Reach For The Answer To The Solid Waste Disposal Problem. I think the planning effort, these disjointed efforts really show the need for a plan. Senator Hefner says tires are not a problem in his district. Tires are a problem in my district. All across the state, some places they aren't a problem, some places they are a problem. We're being premature. A plan will identify the issues in the state that need to be addressed. It will identify the differences between the different regions of the state and identify those separate problems and how those should be addressed. Senator Hefner, one of his concerns is expanding the base of funding this, a very commendable effort. But, again, we're being premature. A state plan will identify the waste stream, identify the people producing the waste and identify the proper way to proceed on financing our solid waste efforts. As I mentioned earlier, Iowa has a tipping fee, \$3, it's coming up to three dollars and some cents per ton this year. Of that \$3, part of it goes to the Department of Environmental Control in Iowa for their solid waste management efforts. Part of it stays with the landfill for upgrading, modernizing their facilities, leachate collection, gas collection, etcetera, etcetera. Part of that goes to specific grants addressing the solid waste problem and part of it goes to two special projects every year of which last year they had 75 applications. They awarded \$800,000 to two of the 75 applications because they were very