

PRESIDENT: Senator Morrissey, may I interrupt you a minute, please. (Gavel.) Let's hold it down, especially under the north balcony, so that we can hear the speakers. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you. I oppose Senator Hefner's amendment, not because necessarily it is not a good idea to address, but because we don't know for sure. I think as we have stated over and over in the brief period of time that we have addressed this bill, we need to look at the plan of what we should do to help these folks address the solid waste problem. We have got a good base. Senator Johnson has provided a starting point. The General Fund money will provide better ideas in identifying our specific problems on how to address those problems and what the state should do. The plan, done correctly, will address broad-based funding. It will address things that we have mentioned here already, such as tipping fees, such as the Iowa tipping fee, \$3 per ton, a way of continuous funding for to address this problem, continuous funding; \$3 per ton, something with a breakdown like 75 cents per ton going to the landfill for modernization, updating, leachate collection, gas collection; 75 cents going to the Department of Environmental Control, which is grossly underfunded in this state and undermanned; 75 percent going to projects, ongoing projects; another 75 cents going to new projects. That is how Iowa does it. That is a good way to start and that is a good way to touch everybody that produces waste, but we have got to get started. I really don't think we can delay any longer. Two nights ago, I attended the Southeast Nebraska Solid Waste Management meeting, and the opinions there ranged from irate because the state was doing absolutely nothing to help, absolutely nothing, to the opinion that we don't want to be spoon-fed a plan by the state. And I agree, I can see why they are mad because we have not helped them out, and, thus, they have gone on their own and are trying to solve their problem, and they are mad at us and they don't trust us to give them a plan that we just won't ram down their throat, and that is the intent of the plan is not to ram it down their throat but give them some guidelines, give the ideas for funding and collection, et cetera, to get an ongoing continuous effort in on the books. It is needed. I don't know, if you are not hearing from your people, but I sure am all over the state. They are trying to address it and they want our help. They want some leadership. They want some ideas, and they want a flexible plan and that is what we, on this floor, should have in mind and that has been stated as the intent over and over and over. Just read