

SENATOR BECK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the body. This is the amendment that is on using the tire money that is coming in, and I passed out some material this morning that talks about the tire fire that was in Ontario, and the fact that Nebraska has enough tire dumps. We have one that has thousands and thousands of tires in it that is in a position to have a fire started. The fact is our own State Fire Marshal is somewhat concerned about that, and I have some...I have some direct quotes from him about that but I am not going to bring those before the body today. If there is anybody that doesn't like business fees, and this is one of the reasons that I originally stayed away from LB 163 because I was concerned about the fees and I visited with Senator Johnson and we talked this over, and as the process evolved, I began to see that this is a bill that I really wanted to be involved with, and Rod was very gracious to allow me to sign on and so on. But, again, I have to look to Senator Schmit and realize that fees can be a problem but so can tires, and we have a potential problem in this state of tires burning. Now not only will those tires burn and leave the residue on any open water areas, those tires, when they burn, will be the equivalent of two gallons of oil draining down into the earth and ultimately, if you had too many tires burn and those burns will go on for days and weeks, you could have, the potential is there for extreme water pollution, and I think that is something we have to think of. Now if you will look on page 777, that is where the final tire amendment is, and we have had three or four meetings and most of the people, I think, with the exception perhaps of my colleague, Spencer Morrissey, are definitely for this kind of an amendment. If we are going to assess fees on tires, it is only fair that we set aside some of that money for research in order to make tire recycling cost effective. We have been in contact with a research division in Kentucky. We have been in contact with people even here in the state that have ideas, but they need the money to do the final research so that this will be cost effective and it will pass the EPA regulations for the various kinds of things we want to do. Now the time has come, I have talked to you about the tire mosquito, this tiger mosquito that breeds exclusively in old tires, and the encephalitis. It is a vector for at least one disease and maybe for two or three others. It is a health problem. Old tires are a health problem. I don't care if they are just a small part of the waste stream. The fact is that we are losing valuable energy in attempting to put them in landfills. We can't leave them out somewhere to burn. You can