

relative to agriculture and farmers having to pay this and talked about others who would be forced to pay. This would limit it down to that group which could basically be tracked, be followed by the Department of Revenue. Yes, it lets out farmers, yes, it lets out wholesalers unless they're doing retail sales but it's the only way that we can logically collect the tax. That tax would then affect about 60,000 businesses of which maybe only about 30 will actually be affected by this particular bill, because there is a provision in the bill that basically allows the tax on the business fee not to be collected if you're doing less than a certain amount of retail sales. Some people are going to have a problem with that, they're going to say, well, the retailers are the only ones going to get hit by this particular proposal and the truth of the matter is, yeah, it is. And I would like to do a... I wish I had a better way of going about collecting the tax so that everyone is contributing but, in talking to the Department of Revenue, it's going to be damn near impossible to do so. But this amendment, I think, would clarify many of the points that have been previously brought up and points that I would like to see in the bill. You know, I have listened to all the debate this morning and previous days that we have taken this issue up and I have heard Senator Schmit talk about responsibility today. And I think this is one issue that is trying to be responsible to a situation that is occurring out there which is the disposal of solid waste that has to be corrected. It's not going to go away. I have sponsored a bill in this Legislature almost every year I have been here to try and get us to do something about solid waste management and every year I'm told the same thing. We don't have a problem or we can't afford to solve the problem because those small towns don't have the resources to do it. But, you know, we can stick our head in the sand here but, eventually, EPA is going to make us do it and we're going to be stuck with the problem and then it's going to be probably more costly once EPA gets their hands in this situation than if we had tried to correct the problem ourselves. We've got over 280 open dumps, unlicensed landfills in this state operating right now have no regulation. There is no way we know what's going into those facilities and we talk about low-level nuclear waste on this floor and the problems we've got with that issue. That's nothing compared to what we're going to have, I think, with sold waste disposal in the future. And I have been told by the municipalities many times, we can't afford to do anything, especially to our smaller towns, because they don't have the tax base to support going to a regulated system. And that's what