

quickly go through it again, it strikes the Morrissey amendment, as it relates to the \$1.5 million that Spence had put in the bill, was adopted, from the General Fund for the study. It lowers that amount down to 500,000. Now, the plan also calls for DEC, DEC, the Council, to contract for a plan or study, not the special committee that Senator Schimek was talking about, and we voted that down just recently. It also authorizes the department to develop rules and regulations to do the study, to carry out the study. And, finally, the language relating to the business fee, and I've heard some concerns by folks about whether it's fair to tax the businesses who are doing retail sales. As I said before, I would like to be able to get everybody in this thing but, in talking with the Department of Revenue, they see no way of being able to collect the tax on everybody so we're trying to limit the business fee, just to retail sales of tangible personal property that's currently subject to tax under the Nebraska Revenue Act. Now, I had somebody comment, I think it was Senator Byars here had said, I hate to see only retailers end up paying this fee. And I tend to agree with Denny, but I'm looking for any way I can raise money for this program and this just happens to be the only way that we can do it that can be, you know, that the department can follow a paper trail to collect the tax. You may not like it: I may not like it but, unfortunately, that's about the only way we can do it at this point. If you don't like the retail sales...or retail tax completely, you can vote to strike that out of this bill completely but I would like to keep it in because I think it generates some dollars that we need to fund this program which is eventually going to, hopefully, benefit those industries or those businesses as we dispose of solid waste in a better way than what we have done in the past and, hopefully, help create programs that are going to help them solve some of their solid waste programs or help with developing recycling programs that may eventually come back to benefit those companies and businesses in the future. But I would just ask for the amendment to be adopted. Actually, I have no further amendment. I am unaware, other than the severability clause amendment that Senator Morrissey is going to introduce, I think that's the extent of the amendments forthcoming and it would be nice to come to a vote yet this morning on whether you like or dislike this bill and not so much all the amendments.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Morrissey, please.