

is the reconsideration of the Beck amendment. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote read. See page 1073 of the Legislative Journal.) 21 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on the reconsideration motion.

PRESIDENT: The amendment fails. The motion fails. Do you have something else, Mr. Clerk? The call is raised.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I think we're finally back to the bill as it was...as has been amended and, hopefully, we'll put this issue out of its misery here shortly. But I would like to see the bill advance today. I don't know how many of you have had a chance to read the story that was run about groundwater contamination due to landfills that were studied by the DEC, but I've got a copy here I would like you to look at and I think it's the tip of the iceberg of what's going to happen as more of these sites are studied. They studied only five of the 106 sites across the state that they have...that the DEC has identified as having potential groundwater contamination. They only studied five of those and three of those were...I think scared the heck out of some folks when they took...had a chance to take a look at the Cozad site and the Wahoo sites, in particular. There was some very high concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater in those areas. Fortunately, none of those were...those contamination areas were near municipal drinking wells but it proves a point that there is a potential out there for some substantial contamination problems due to landfills, basically because for many years we have had no regulations, no instructions, no direction to our solid waste disposal in this state. And this bill doesn't necessarily solve all the problems and I have heard a lot of folks get up and say, golly, I wish this bill would do this or we've got a problem over here we're not addressing. I admit that. I mean, heck, we're trying to do the best we can with an initial program here and I'm sure if this bill is eventually passed and signed by the Governor, and goes into operation, that we will be able to begin to identify the waste stream, as Senator Morrissey has talked about, we'll be able to better identify what potential areas of revenue generation that we can find to help support the program. All of those things