

18 months, to change the way that Nebraska handles solid waste. We have over 280 unlicensed landfills or open dumps as they are classified by DEC in this state. We know most all of those are going to be closed. The fact is why wait until the train hits you before you decide to get off the tracks. I think that 163 gets us off the tracks and moving down the road of dealing with this substantial solid waste problem Nebraska has. It seems to me, as she's indicated, 94 percent of the state's municipalities operate landfills in Nebraska that are not regulated. And this process would be helped by 163's passage. It sets up a funding mechanism, through tires and a business fee, that creates a grant program that we will, hopefully, be able to provide money to our municipalities in this state to deal with solid waste. It's not the cure-all, it's not going to solve all the problems that Nebraska has, but at least it recognizes, and anyone can, I think, recognize this issue, that Nebraska will not be allowed to handle solid waste the way we used to do it. And we've got to recognize that, and we're either going to pay for it in the property tax side, through our local municipalities, or we're going to pay for it and help, I guess, through this process. There's also been a comment made relative to the \$500,000 out of General Fund for the state planning. And there really are two questions in this bill, one is the 500,000 General Fund which the Governor has indicated she objects to, and, quite frankly, she could have vetoed that particular part out completely. She could have done that, that was within her scope to veto that money out, and we could have still had the mechanism that 163 sets in place for the grant program. But, instead, she chose to veto not just the 500,000, but the whole program and suggests that we deal with, as her comments are, it is my desire this issue will be approached in the next legislative session with General Fund monies and with the focus on a broader than solid waste disposal loan. I guess the question I have is, if we can't get 500,000 this year out of the Legislature, and we had a previous bill that Senator Schmit carried through the Legislature asking for 5 million General Fund, then how you going to get 5 million or 500,000 out of next year's Legislature? I doubt you will. And so I decided, when we started drafting this particular bill two years ago, that we would look for sources away from the General Fund, a way to generate a substantial amount of money that is renewable, renewable resources. And I guess I'm just asking you to, you know, have the guts to vote for the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the motion to