

should our existing landfills be forced to either be closed or licensed. I guess I'm saying, if you're going to license anybody, license them all, or just basically not license anybody. The problem I have with this amendment from a logistical standpoint is we have god knows how many unlicensed landfills out there. We've been told 225. There might be a heck of a lot more than that that we don't know about. But there was a study done a few years ago that said, of the five sites that were in-depthly studied, there was significant cause for concern of groundwater contamination. There are 225, maybe potentially 250 landfills or open dumps out there that probably have not yet been in-depthly studied. And I'm concerned about the fact that the DEC has only two personnel, or two and a half basically working in the solid waste division, and how are we going to be able to find out what steps are going to be taken, financially speaking, by this body to give significant staff and resources to the DEC to go out and do what Senator Lamb is asking to check on, which ones are and which ones are not posing threats to the groundwater? It would be a good idea if they did that, but at this point we have been very frugal in the amount of money that we've given DEC in this area to study this issue. And, you know, I guess my concern is the City of Omaha could come back and say, well, we're not causing any significant groundwater contamination, so why should we have to license our facility. And the first class cities could say the same thing, that we don't want to have to comply with licensing standards because they cost us some money. I think we've got to get beyond that point. We've got to say, yes, it's going to cost us some money, but we're looking at the long-term approach to a very significant issue. And one of the concerns I had with the original bill, as it was written, was the short date line of eliminating the Whitney amendment because we're still waiting for the study from 163, which will be done at the end of this year, which will come back basically next year, for this body to begin reviewing what public policy decisions we might want to make in changing public policy as it affects the whole landfill issue. I have told reporters, prior to this session starting, that I thought it would be wise to wait on a lot of the legislation dealing with solid waste until we have this comprehensive study back before us so that we can look at what areas may be deficient in the state, and then begin addressing those at that time. But we've had this bill presented to us, it's not a new bill, it's been here before. In fact, I've sponsored similar bills in the past. But I guess I'm of the attitude to either get to the point where you're going to