

February 26, 1991 LB 67

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair. Members, I think there is a little bit of confusion on the floor as to what we are debating and, briefly, Senator Nelson's amendment would remove the amendment which was adopted yesterday which I offered. And that amendment was amended by Senator Beutler. So the committee amendment with my amendment reads like this. "Cities of the second class and villages shall prepare a plan by December 15, 1993, that will bring landfills" and then this is my amendment as amended, "which have been identified by the department as constituting a threat to people directly or indirectly or water supplies and previously exempted under this section into compliance with licensure requirements," and so on. So what my amendment did as amended by Senator Beutler is to merely say that there should be some selectivity in this process, that landfills which are considered by the department as not being a threat to people or to water should not just be closed on a blanket closure, as would happen under the bill. So I think that is a reasonable amendment. Now people are saying the Department of Environmental Control does not have the personnel to determine which ones are a threat and which ones are not a threat. I submit that the department is going to need more personnel no matter what happens. When we are going to have wholesale closure as the last part of the committee amendment indicates, they are going to promulgate rules and regulations which provide standards for closure and postclosure of all landfills, including landfills previously exempted under this section, that means there are going to have to be people out there seeing what is going on. It doesn't make any difference whether my amendment gets on or not. The department is going to have to have more people, and I think any reasonable person will recognize that. So the cost to the department, while there will be some, certainly, it is worthwhile. It is worthwhile because it is saying, let's selectively close them. Let's close the ones that are offering a problem or a possible problem, but not just across the board say everyone of them has to be closed. That is what the amendment does. I would hope you would not adopt Senator Nelson's amendment which would strip my amendment off of the committee amendment. Got that.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President and members, I, too, am confused and I was confused yesterday. Today I am going to support Senator Nelson in her amendment, and am going to oppose