

the League of Municipalities and others who are concerned about the impact such an amendment would have or such a bill would have upon the local subdivisions. Almost without exception we were told that we need more time. As the public became more and more aware of the fact that solid waste sites were, in fact, a threat to the water quality of the State of Nebraska, the public became more insistent that we adopt a more responsible attitude toward the disposal of solid waste. Interest became more acute in the recycling process and many communities did, in fact, try to do something to recycle much of their solid waste. Communities went through many different negotiations attempting to lessen the amount of solid waste that was delivered to landfills. Some communities closed landfills altogether. My own county seat of Butler County, David City, in fact, decided to go out of the solid waste business and for a time solid waste was trucked to a neighboring county, I believe about 44 miles distant, not a very economical process. But the City of David City recognized that they had to address the problem. They chose not to appropriate tax monies to build a solid waste site. They chose to do otherwise. Many other communities in Butler County and Saunders County followed that same procedure. The City of Columbus went through a trial and error period where they've trucked a bunch of waste to Duncan to a compactor and back again and attempted to try to find some way to resolve the problem. Throughout this period of time, ladies and gentlemen, the Department of Environmental Control was in existence. first under Mr. Higgins, then under Dan Drain, and now lately under the leadership of Dennis Grams. They recognized that it was a serious problem. They recognized fully the financial problems that existed but they cooperated nonetheless. I believe, and I'm going to tell you, very frankly, that substantial progress has been made. As I travel across the state today, I do not see nearly as many illegal solid waste sites that I saw a few years ago. And I think that many cities have accepted the fact that they need to take care of that solid waste problem. Senator Morrissey refers to the cost. We're all aware of the cost. Ladies and gentlemen, I've asked many times, many times, how much it costs just to get rid of the solid waste for most communities. Five dollars, eight dollars, ten dollars per month per household, not really a significant expense. If the city must appropriate money to construct a landfill site and you divide that cost among the residents of a community or a county or a region, that site is not...that cost is not extraordinary. We have, in the state, a number of sites that were built by private individuals. They invested their own money. They took