

deal here because we get \$500,000 worth of insurance. But there is this \$25,000 first cost that the individual has to stand. So I've got a 2,000 gallon tank out there that maybe they fill it twice a year. And so it's not worth much of a tank fee to me to keep that tank. You're pricing me out of the underground tank business. I'll go...I'll jump through the hoops to pull that tank out of the ground and set it up on top where I don't have to pay anything, because per gallon cost of the amount of fuel that goes through that tank is getting to be prohibitive, if I have to pay the same price that a retailer or a wholesaler pays on that tank fee. So it's not fair. Senator Morrissey pointed out that there are winners and losers, or, no, he said they're all winners to a certain different extent, except for a person that uses it for his own private purpose, and he's a loser from the first...the word go, in my opinion, because you know all you're doing is precluding me from having an underground tank. I can't afford to have an underground tank and pay more than \$100 a year for that privilege, because if there is a leak, then I've still got to pay the first \$25,000 in cleaning up that leak. I can't take that risk. That \$500,000 worth of insurance doesn't mean a nickel to me, because I'm not willing to pay the first 25,000; that puts me out of the underground tank business. And it's not just me, it's every farmer in the state that has an underground tank is in a similar situation. So far I've gone along with this tank fee because it's been reasonable. But now with Senator Beutler's amendment, it's getting beyond reason. We're taking a whole lot of us out of the underground tank business. I'll hire one of these persons who has to be certified to use a backhoe to take that tank out, no matter what it costs, because it just doesn't make any sense to leave it underground. We've got plenty of room out there. Now the retailer and the wholesaler, the per gallon cost of that tank fee is negligible, negligible, it's very, very low. And I agree with the concept of increasing that tank fee for them, but not for the private users. So that's why I've offered this amendment which takes the private users out of the tank fee part of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Before we proceed, I would like to introduce a number of guests of the Legislature. First of all, Senator Schrock has some guests in the south balcony. They are 14 sixth, seventh and eighth graders from the R4 School in Elm Creek with their teacher. Will you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. And we also have some guests of Senator Nelson. We have 12 seniors from the