

don't know if you have...any of you have this on your desk, but it says, rules and regulations may not require licensure or certification of a person who installs or replaces a tank. I think installing these tanks is an important process. Replacing the tanks is an important part of the process. If we're just talking about removing them and carting them away, that may be a different process. But this amendment goes much further than that and I'm not going to be supporting it. If it gets adopted, I'll probably be doing some continued work on this between now and Select File to more narrowly limit the amendment to do more what I understood Senator Schmit said he wanted to do. So I will not be supporting this amendment. If there is a problem that needs to be addressed, I will be happy to work to address that. If the amendment gets adopted, I will probably be working to restrict its application between now and Select File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss the Schmit amendment? Senator Beutler, did you wish to?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make a quick comment about what happens in this process, at least to the extent that I understand it. But, as I understand the process, it's not the certification of any backhoe person or any person that's putting in the tank or replacing it that's expensive. It's the site assessment process that's expensive, the taking of core samples, figuring out what's going on or what has to be done, and that's exclusively a DEC, Department of Environmental Control function. The certification of these backhoe people, for example, consists, basically, of a simple written test that they take that ninety plus percent of them pass the first time and most all of them, I don't think without...I don't know if without exception, but most of them come back and take it a second time and pass it. So it's not a big deal. But it may be a big deal to an individual life. You know, these are petroleum tanks. This is explosive material that you're dealing with. Just think about it for a minute, is it...is it worthwhile for their own protection and safety, given the fact that there is very little expense in this part of the whole operation, is it worthwhile for their own protection and safety for them to take a small exam reminding them that this could...they could lose their life doing this job, that these are dangerous materials? I appreciate the frustration that Senator Schmit feels and a lot of us feel with regard to the expense of cleaning up these matters. A \$100,000 a shot is a big deal. But the part that