

though.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Haberman and colleagues, I certainly do appreciate that. It is a welcome tie. It's one that looks like Senator Kristensen might buy, if he was to buy one. Senator Lynch. Yes, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: I would put my coat on, Mr. Speaker and members, to make this statement, but there's an old "mellerdrama" line that the clothes don't make the person and sometimes we understand and recognize and appreciate your great mind and wit and leadership and some of us really aren't too worried about your tie. I just wanted to let you know that, that's all.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Before I go to the next speaker, I would like to announce some guests of Senator Abboud. They are 41 fourth graders and two teachers from Wildwood in Ralston. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Further discussion on the amendment. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I think Senator Beutler has been quite frank in describing his purpose for the fee structure that he has amended into the bill and that is to eventually make the fees equivalent to the cost of private insurance. Well, I would submit to the body that that amounts to creeping repeal of the policy decision that we made when we initially passed the bill. I think it's entirely appropriate that we provide a means for people to stay in business and pay a reasonable fee for having their underground storage tanks and I think it is bad policy to enact what is, in effect, a creeping repeal of a statute. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you Senator Wickersham. Senator Rod Johnson on the amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, to try and get to some resolution of this issue, I have not talked to Senator Beutler this morning, but I was one that supported his original amendment because I support the concept that he expressed yesterday which was that private industry, the petroleum marketers should eventually begin to wean themselves from this particular program and begin to look at the private sector for insurance because, basically, what 409 is, as many of you know,