

taxpayers' money. We are possibly increasing gas taxes by \$3.5 million. This is a big dollar item bill and you're going to be paying this increased gas tax for a long time into the future. Now what happens if you vote for Senator Wehrbein's amendment? Then there are absolutely no increases in the tank fee in the future, no increases. So what does that mean? That means as inflation inflates the cost of recovery, and remember, each recovery is in the area of \$100,000, as that goes up 4 or 5 percent each year, more gas tax money has to go in to cover that and the registration fee, the part that the owners is paying doesn't go up a penny, doesn't go up a penny. It's a complete eroding away of the agreement and a complete sellout, in my opinion. I also want to mention...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that the people who are benefitted most, the people who are benefitted most by this subsidization are the small marketers, the mom and pop operations primarily located in rural areas where there are smaller volumes. Those are the ones, those 50 percent that have less than a half a million dollars of revenue, those are the ones that are in danger of going out of business. Those are the ones who couldn't probably handle it but for this fund. And they are located out there in the rural areas, not in the big cities as a general proposition. So it's actually those areas, Senator Lamb's area, Senator Wehrbein's area, those are the areas that are benefitted most by this fund. And yet the objections to a...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...reasonable increase in the fee seems to be coming from those areas that benefit most.

SPEAKER BAACK: The next speaker is Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I wanted to make it clear, the only reason I punched my button was because I wanted to make it clear that I'm not trying to hold up the bill. I don't want to hold up the bill. I thought we had hammered out the problems in committee. It had been...the proposals had been circulated among a lot of people and perhaps Senator Beutler raised some objections in committee, both he and I serve in that committee. I don't remember that, but he may have, but