

nevertheless, I thought we had the proposal in good shape at that time only to find that there is a change here and I think, with Senator Wehrbein's amendment which takes off the changes in the tank fees, that we can pass the bill, and it needs to be passed. But there is an unfairness here which when you get into larger numbers is more pronounced and I think in the future we should probably go back and look at those tank fees on a fairer basis. Senator Beutler says this is going to be forever. Well, you and I know that nothing is forever in this body, that this issue may very well be back again and again and again, and that that does not mean it's going to be forever, that if we don't put his amendment on there, it could very well be some similar amendment put on in the future in another year. And so I guess I would just urge that people on the floor vote for Senator Wehrbein's amendment. Let's let this bill go forward in the manner in which it came out of committee after due consideration and go forward with the rest of the agenda.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm sorry to speak so much, but I seem to be the only one on the one side, and I'm so thoroughly convinced that the one side is the correct policy choice that I want to be sure you have all the arguments before you. You know, one of the problems with this socialized system versus private insurance is that if you're not careful about how you structure the payments, you take away all incentives for people to do things right. You know, that's the big difference between the system we have and some of the systems they've had in eastern Europe that failed so miserably and this fee structure I think is a good example of that. Why? Because no matter how you handle your operation, no matter how you handle your operation, the fee is the same, fee is the same, \$75. So therein lies one of the major problems because there is no incentive to keep your operation operating as clean as possible in terms of the environment or much less incentive. Let's talk about the costs a little bit again. The monthly costs, the monthly disbursements coming out of this fund that we've been talking about, they're rising astronomically. A year ago they were 10, 30, \$40,000 a month. Two months ago they were up at the level of \$300,000 a month. The latest figure in January, \$450,000, nearly half a million dollars in one month. Now remember that with the current fee that we're talking about, if there are no increases in the fee, that means the owners would pay for about two months of a year's worth of