

you wish to address the amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I sympathize with Senator Morrissey and also the Johnson-Brock School District, but I believe, if we would allow this claim, it would set poor policy. The Business and Labor Committee discussed this claim at length. And I could not...or I didn't feel comfortable supporting this claim, and so I didn't support it. But I don't feel that the Johnson-Brock School District submitted their claim in time. And I know it isn't that big a deal, it's only 30 or 40 thousand bucks. But I believe we would be setting poor policy. It won't break the state, but I hate to see us do it. It would be setting poor policy, and I believe it could open the door to more claims, and we certainly don't want to see that. I believe distribution that was made was reasonable. And so I would urge this body to reject this claim because, if we would approve it, we would certainly open a can of worms, and I don't think we should do that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Morrissey, do you wish to speak further on your amendment?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Folks, here's the poor policy that we would be setting, this would be the poor policy. We would be telling the departments, all of them, that they have to follow the law, poor policy or not. The pro...I go to the...a different fund, a low-level fund that has approximately \$500,000 in it. These folks were guaranteed by law that they should have...that this money should be distributed to them. The DEC did not follow the law. And all of their arguments don't hold any water. This bill that changed the policy moved from Select File to Final Reading on May 15, four days after the letter they sent out. They had no idea things were changing then? No idea. Gee whiz, Department of Environmental Control didn't know that four days after they sent out a letter telling Auburn that their distribution application was improper, that the distribution system had changed and was going to change for sure? They didn't know that? Had no idea. Folks, that is very weak, a very, very weak argument. They knew it was going to change. They said they couldn't stop the process, because the ball had already been...started rolling. Yet they stopped it and changed it twice, over a month after the law changed. This is establishing very good policy, folks. This is telling the state agencies that, yes, if we, the Legislature, change a law, you better be