

leak. It was also true that no financial institution would attempt to invest or finance a small service station because of that kind of liability, and the limited opportunity to repay the original investment. I do not know if this is the final answer or not. I do not know if it is the best answer. I am sure there are those on the floor who have some comments. I welcome those comments. I welcome the comments by Senator Robak and others. I know Senator Lamb and others in the rural areas are very concerned. We want to be fair. We recognize that the consumer pays for the cleanup, the farmer, the railroads and the driving motorist, it's kind of a unique concept. On the other hand, we recognize that it is a service to those of us in the rural areas and other areas that we maintain those kind of facilities in many small communities. I really believe that, without this kind of an amendment, there will not be some of those facilities in hundreds of the small communities in the State of Nebraska. I don't know if it is the best solution or not. Maybe someone has a better solution, but I would welcome your comments, your questions and your criticism, and in the event that you have a better solution, I will support that, but if you do not have, I would hope that you would support the amendment. At this time, Senator Robak, if I have some time left, I would like to give you the time because we did have the other amendment, and I know that it has some support, but the other amendment would have been a very major drain upon the fund. We probably would have had to go back and restructure the funding mechanism totally, and so this is a compromise designed strictly for the small plant to provide some protection for a plant which pumps less than 250,000 gallons of fuel per year. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR MORRISSEY PRESIDING

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Robak, you have four minutes.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Mr. Chairman, or whatever you are today. I support the Schmit...I support the Schmit amendment. Did you shut me off? I support the Schmit amendment mainly from the fact that what we are trying to do here is to protect the small gas operator, and the small owner that has a storage tank on his property, and without this amendment, they would likely...could possibly go bankrupt or go out of business. This is about the only way that we could come up to think of a way to protect the small, one of the smaller storage tank operators, and I support the amendment.