

these cleanups. Some of it has to be borne upon the responsible party, in this case, and going down to \$5,000 seems to me to be significantly low. I am not sure that 15 or 20 thousand would be better, but it just seems to me we are going in the wrong direction.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Our next speaker is Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Well, \$5,000 is a lot of money for many of my small town garage, filling station/bread store, whatever it is that they are handling. I think my experiences are probably typical for most of you that have a rural district of substantial size with a number of small communities. When the underground storage tank issue regulations were first put in place, we were left within 12 months of time with a number of small communities that did not have any retail gasoline availability within those towns. Last year, the Legislature was wise enough to work in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal's Office and we authorized the installation of aboveground fuel storage tanks in communities of less than 2,000 people. This has resulted in several of the communities, at least, now have again local retail gasoline service. I don't know, as Senator Johnson said he didn't know what the magic figure is, I don't know what the magic figure is or not, but I do know that \$5,000 for many of these people is more than what their profit is on a year or more of gasoline sales, quite probably more than what the value of their service station, the garage building, the real estate it sets upon. The \$25,000 was tantamount to or is tantamount to putting people out of business, and then who pays to clean up? I support the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. The next speaker on the Schmit amendment is Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would oppose the amendment. I think we have to step back and remember again what we are doing here. This is a precedent setting bill to begin with in that you are setting up a state insurance fund, a state insurance fund, and the premium for those who are participating in the fund is basically about \$75 a tank. That premium is extremely cheap, extremely cheap, and what you are doing by this amendment is pushing more of the burden off on the gas taxpayer, basically. Assuming that the