

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Morrissey. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Mr. Speaker, thank you, and members. I would rise in support of the Beutler amendment. I think particularly in light of what we did with Senator Schmit's amendment, it's appropriate and proper for us to start looking at limiting the liability of the citizens of the State of Nebraska for this type of program. I think Senator Beutler's amendment does that. It says by the year 2010 that we want to be out of this business, and I think that is a reasonable and responsible approach, particularly when we have taken the liability to \$5,000 for the marketers. And I agree that perhaps we need to try and keep the marketers in the field, but I don't think we need to subsidize them on into infinity and certainly not much beyond the year 2010. I think it is unreasonable to expect the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska to have to finance this type of program without any closure date, and, obviously, it is going to be a motivating factor to the marketers to get their leaking tanks cleared up and to do it in a timely fashion, and not to drag it out for a long period of time. It seems responsible, to me, that we say that we are not going to pay for these cleanups indefinitely, and that the insurance is out there, and that the State of Nebraska is not going to be an insurance provider for a long period of time, but that we recognize that we have a social problem here, and that social problem will be taken care of in due course. And I would recommend that the body endorse Senator Beutler's amendment, particularly in light of what we have done in the previous amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Morrissey, followed by Senator Coordsen. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I supported Senator Beutler on his first effort to raise, incrementally raise the fees here, but I stand now to oppose this amendment to LB 409 simply because I think it is unworkable. "The fee shall be a percentage of the average estimated annual insurance premium for six tanks or less of average age for insurance coverage similar to the protection provided by the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act," so we are going to base our fees on those insurance coverages. There are some insurance premiums available by some, I believe they are called, off-line insurance companies, but who's to guarantee what those insurance companies, what those fees will continue to