

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...take the responsibility and the accountability for our actions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Morrissey?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, thank you, Madam President and members. I thank you, Senator Schmit. That's exactly what I'm trying to say. If we can't call for our state agencies to be accountable, then what are we here for, what are we here for? They spent the money and they spent it wrongly. They didn't follow state law. Is that the message you want to send, it's okay for you departments and agencies not to follow the law that we changed on this floor and that the governor signs, that we put into effect for the benefit of the citizens of this state? No. If you want a place to start, this is a place to start, right here. They did not follow the law, clearly they did not follow the law. There's no confusion, no confusion at all. They shorted the citizens and that's what the Business and Labor Committee claims hearings are all about. Were the citizens shorted by the state, were they affected by the state in a wrongful way? Yes, or no. We should not set the precedent that just because they did it and it might cost more money in the future, that we shouldn't make it right. Folks, we're here to make it right. We're here for the citizens and that's what I'm asking you to do. Simply take, adopt my amendment, take the money out of the Low-Level Cash Fund, there's \$500,000 there. There will be more claims to follow if you pass this, I guarantee you that, as Senator Coordsen said, probably around \$66,000 or so, \$64,000 owed to these citizens, owed to these subdivisions by state law. The DEC dropped the ball, wasn't paying attention what was going on in the low-level area obviously, or they would have caught bigger funds, bigger amounts than we caught right here. We need to send a message right now on accountability. I was in a meeting at Falls City last week. Many of the citizens came up to me and said, why don't we have something like the GAO to look through the records, look through the books, see what is really going on, and I agreed, I agreed with them. I said, it will cost some money. We do have an auditor that seems to be more aggressive than any auditors have been in the past, but that's just one office. This body also has accountability, we also have the ability to ask the right questions, to push the right