

penny, create the Solid Waste Management Fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall not be...or excuse me, shall be, of course, invested by the State Investment Officer. But the Legislature shall appropriate to the fund for the use prescribed in the state plan by the Department of Environmental Control. The appropriation shall be used to provide assistance to political subs to carry out activities in accordance with a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Expenses of the department for such activities shall not exceed 10 percent of the total amount received in the Solid Waste Management Fund. The intention is to use the money as seed money to create funding for the expenses that will be coming up in the future as we look at closing or licensing some 200 plus landfills in our areas. I have a handout coming around. Over the past two weeks I've talked to probably all of your constituents as the Solid Waste Management Plan moved across the state. We had meetings in Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, Beatrice, and Omaha. And one of the main concerns, or the main concern mentioned in all six of those meetings was funding. What is the state's responsibility, what is the local responsibility, we want to know that answer. And I told them right now I can't tell you that answer. If you remember, we originally appropriated \$1.5 million for this plan last year. Of the 1.5 that we appropriated, we have spent less than 500,000, and we did not reappropriate, we changed it, of course, to two \$500,000 appropriations. Spent less than the original 500,000, have not reappropriated the second 500,000. As we went around the state talking to your constituents, realizing the potential for expenses in the future, we thought that there was a definite need to start building a pool of funds to be used to address many of the concerns that our folks have on solid waste management. The handout that you have is basically the little bit of education we did in these two-hour plus meetings that we had across the state. We did a little education in the first half of the meeting, and then the folks educated us in the second half. It shows that there is money within our system to fund reduction, recycling, and other issues that go towards better solid waste management. Look on the back of the second page, you'll see the State of Nebraska spends approximately \$76.4 million on waste disposal. But that \$76.4 million does not include what we pay in subsidies from taxes to provide road signs, law enforcement oversight, tests, prevention, and correction of contamination, provide utilities and tax incentives for some solid waste businesses. These indirect subsidies, according to our studies, could add another