

and more into this plan, we see the costs, potential costs going higher and higher. Now these are costs that concern everyone in the state. This is not any sort of pork amendment on my part. It's for everybody out there. As we traveled the state, when we were in North Platte, we had people from ten counties surrounding North Platte. And those people from...one of those folks said, we've got water contamination from our improperly run landfill, what are we going to do about it? We're up against our county lid, we can't even begin to address that problem, how are you going to help us on the state level? And I had to honestly tell him I don't really know at this time. We have no money available. We have small grants available through 163 for reduction, and recycling, and other efforts. But we're talking potential costs that could get into the millions of dollars. As an example, many of the farmers at the meetings came and said, we've got old chemicals on our farm that we need to dispose of, how do we dispose of those? And the city, can we bring them to the city and do a hazardous waste program, like Lincoln and Omaha do? And the city people at these meetings said, geez, we'd like to be able to do that for you, but we can't afford to do that. So what are these farmers going to do with all their old chemicals? What are the people in these small towns going to do with their small amounts of hazardous waste? Eventually they may get nervous and they may just go dump them, and then we're looking at a water quality, water contamination, and a health issue. I think this is very much a health issue, that's why I thought possibly the cigarette tax was a good place to go. The one consistent funding recipient of the cigarette tax has been the cancer research. I think this is very much related, very much related, especially when you're talking hazardous waste disposal and toxic chemicals. And each and every meeting we went to...did you say one minute, Mr. Speaker? No. Okay. Each and every meeting we went to we had farmers wondering, what are we going to do? What are we going to do? We've got all these chemicals and we don't have any place to go with them. And the costs, quite frankly, for disposing properly of those chemicals are quite high. The cities, the counties, they don't know what they're going to do. Are we going to force these people, basically, to improperly dispose of these chemicals? That's the question and concern we have. Now another concern is the funding of the Department of Environmental Control. We have regulations that call for monitoring wells that license landfills. Nebraska City, for an example, spent \$50,000 on monitoring wells, required by the state, to monitor the water at their licensed landfill. When