

year. We are still waiting to vote on LB 67, which would bring about an historic end to the Whitney amendment. But built into that bill is some lead time for the smaller communities operating unlicensed landfills in order to respond to that, I think it's three to five years, something like that. That has not yet passed. But the exemption, obviously, looks to be...going to be in place at least for the next two to five years. We are also collecting, right now, a tax...one dollar tax on the sale of tires in this state. That fund is somewhere close to about a half million dollars right at the moment. That was also part of the 163 package that we passed a year ago. And, hopefully, that ongoing source of revenue will provide some dollars to the local governments as they respond to their solid waste problems. But I'm not sure that that lone funding source is enough to meet the magnitude of the problem that Senator Morrissey outlines for us. The one cent sales tax concept...one cent cigarette tax concept would generate a hefty amount of money, on top of the money collected through the one dollar tire tax. But, as I said, it appears, at this particular point, that the reaction of this idea is somewhat premature to the ongoing activities that the state is involved in, the local governments are involved in. I may vote for the amendment. I don't give it much chance, but I think it does recognize that we need to put some additional dollars in solid waste. I introduced a bill this year to increase staffing in the area of solid waste in the Department of Environmental Control, along with water management areas. But that has not been successful in being discussed here this year. But, again, it shows the need for dollars in this area. And it appears to me, not only with the change of attitude we need to have in this state toward the environment and toward solid waste, we also have to have a change in spending habits. And spending money in the department on issues like solid waste is a significant change in policy that I don't think will happen overnight, I don't think will happen here today, but again it recog...I think Senator Morrissey's amendment at least recognizes that we are in a cooperative partnership with our local governments to help them work on this solid waste problem and, hopefully, give them, not only guidance with regulations, but also to give them the dollars they need to perform and to meet those regulations. And I think that is the biggest stumbling block I've heard most in my local political subdivisions leaders tell me is the reason they are concerned about losing the Whitney amendment, is this money going to come out of property taxes, or is it going to come out of state government some way, out of the General Fund, or is it going to