

exist. We can pretend that they don't have the potential to pollute our groundwater, but we'll really be deceiving ourselves. Fifty million dollars, folks, potentially to close all these landfills properly. Monitor them, put up the wells, make sure that the contamination is not there, and if so, we have to do something about it. So if we don't start now, then when do we start? Maybe next year, fine. But I say we better think seriously about starting right now. The money collected in 163 has only reached approximately half the projections, half the projections. We need to get some money directed toward this problem, and we need to do it, in my opinion, now. Maybe I am fighting a losing cause here for this year. Maybe the timing is wrong politically. But if you want to do what is right for the groundwater, and you want to do what's right for your folks to help them do what they want to do, think of the costs. Every small town out there that wants to look at closing a landfill, potentially, a minimum \$50,000 for monitoring, that's if nothing is wrong. If something is wrong, then the costs escalate. Potentially, for addressing the 500 unlicensed dumps, and I would project there are more than 500 out there, because you all know of dumps in your town and your county that nobody ever talks about, but in your lifetime have been used. And in the past the potential for contamination with completely unregulated and unknowing dumping is very high, especially their location to water sources and water supplies, normally right on a creek, no consideration for groundwater, didn't even think about it back in those days, folks. There is a lot we have to do, a lot we have to do. And we are talking about a potential large amount of money. I'm saying this might not be the best timing in this body, but I say it's the time to start addressing the problem, start realizing that water quality is number one...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...with the citizens of this state. There have been polls done, that were presented, that the people in this state are ready to address the solid waste management problem in the proper method. They just don't know how they can do it. We must protect the groundwater. The potential for very high costs are there, and if we don't start now, we're just going to...we're just putting off the inevitable. And I ask you to really give this some serious consideration and give your folks a vote that you're concerned about helping them out in protecting their water and managing our waste in a proper method. I'd urge you to support the amendment. Thank you.