

to have those penalties apply as they would under the bill. That is not a...and many of those penalties are not changes in current statute, they are just rewritten versions of them and, frankly, some of them had not been applied. But anyway, as I said, the committee amendments, in essence, become a redraft of the bill. They were negotiated by Senator Warner with members of the industry, and they are before you. When you vote to adopt the committee amendments, you are voting, in essence, for LB 627. With that, Madam President, I would yield the balance of the opening on the committee amendments to Senator Warner who has done the work on this bill, in essence, the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Warner, you have the remainder of Senator Hall's time.

SENATOR WARNER: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. Senator Hall has summarized very well the amendment. I just was going to add a little bit. This bill has been, essentially, I guess three years in the making. There was language in the appropriation bill a couple of years ago which requested all of the various agencies of state government who are involved in some aspect of either the supervision or the collection of motor fuel revenue to look at our whole system. As you are aware, there probably was a lack of national publicity for a period of time, which the federal government has become quite involved, as well as various state governments, to look at the gas collection, or motor fuel collection system and, in particular, trying to avoid fraud or avoidance of paying the tax which could be a million dollar type...millions of dollar types of loss to government resulting in a higher rate. Certainly, within the industry, who have been very supportive of the efforts, the legal operators certainly cannot compete with those who are operating without paying their appropriate tax on mater...on these fuels. What, in essence, the bill does is establishes a system where there is an effective trail system that can be followed, one which a lot of time has been spent on so that there was a system established that was not a burden to the merchants and those who handle it unnecessarily, and yet permitted the state to have a trail system which they could ascertain whether or not that fuel had or that tax had been paid on the fuel. I do have two or three amendments to the committee amendments, which are essentially corrective, which I will be glad to respond to when we get to those. But to my knowledge, at least, cooperative efforts of a whole lot of people, I think