

Legislature. My opening will be brief. This bill was designed to address what we see as some shortfall or shortcoming in the Department of Environmental Control as it relates to solid waste, basically monitoring nonpoint source contamination from potential landfills. With all of the emphasis that's going to be placed upon the State of Nebraska relative to our landfill problems, it seems to us that it would be wise for the state to begin doing a better job of funding this particular area of the Department of Environmental Control by giving them additional personnel, and attempting, I guess, to address what we see as a very, very big issue that Nebraska is going to have to confront in the future. There are very limited staff in the department now, and we're going to need an awful lot more people, I think, as we begin to implement some of the programs that are going to come down from Subtitle D, which are EPA requirements that we cannot simply ignore. And there are a lot of other bills that are coming in this session, principally Senator Morrissey's package of bills coming out of the solid waste management study where additional personnel, again, are going to be necessary as we begin to have to regulate our landfills and address some of the water contamination problems that have been caused by improperly sited or improperly run landfills. So, with that, I'd ask the bill be advanced today.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to oppose the advancement of LB 661. If you read the bill you will see that it's a rather odd creature that it's trying to...I'm not exactly sure what. I think what it's trying to do is force the hand of the Department of Environmental Control to give some albeit needed attention and staff assistance to some areas Senator Johnson mentioned, areas of nonpoint source water quality contamination, as well as solid waste management, more on the land contamination issue. But I guess my biggest concern, LB 661 really is a bill that is unnecessary. If the thought is, and I think what the thought is that we need some additional funding, we need to make our commitment towards the issue of solid waste management, environmental protection as a whole, it's a funding issue. I think if that's what you want to do, then you need to provide the funding for it. I think LB 661, if it advances, is going to need an A bill, or if it doesn't have an A bill, I don't know why you should pass the bill because it doesn't do anything by itself. I know Senator Johnson has agreed to, already has agreed with me that an A bill will be