

rise to support the committee amendment. The Agriculture Committee has spent a lot of time on this issue. And this is the first time that I've supported this issue, and I want to tell you the reason why I changed my mind. And I know this is a very difficult issue, not only for myself, but many of you others. But the one reason that led me to support this issue is because of what happened in northeast Nebraska, and this was a charge brought about...the federal EPA. And the penalty that they assessed against this small businessman was terrible, it was out of this world. If he has to pay the fine that's been assessed to him, it will put him out of business. But I truly believe that if we take care of this on the state level that never would have come to pass. And so I think this is why it's very important for us to take control at the state level. I know that maybe he should have some sort of penalty assessed to him, but, my gosh, folks, we can't have these fines so great that it puts the person out of business. He's a good, honest, reliable businessman, and he abides by, or tries to abide by all the rules and regulations that come down. And we know there are a lot, there's a lot right on the state level. It's just like the bill that we passed a couple years ago, I believe it was LB 163, on solid waste disposal. Here we put a tax on tires and we don't do one thing about taking care of the tires. We take care of all the other...or a lot of the other things, but we don't try to...we haven't put any money yet into finding and doing research to take care of the old tires that are sitting out there. But getting back to this issue, I believe all the other states except Nebraska now has control of their own program. And so I think...I think it's time that Nebraska goes along with this program, and, therefore, we will be able to control our own destiny, and I think this is the way it should be. So I would urge you to vote for the committee amendments and then vote for the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Beutler, you're next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: A question of Senator Johnson, if I may.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson, would you respond, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I'll try.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Johnson, I'm concerned, as I'm sure you were concerned when you were going through this, with regard