

collect a fee, and so Omaha was simply excluded at that time. And it's been somewhat controversial over the years in Omaha because the people have not been overly anxious to pay a separate collection fee. And so the city in the early seventies apparently did not push to have themselves included and they're simply attempting now to be included in that effort. And I would simply think, going back to Senator Haberman's comments in opposition, I'm glad to see that Senator Haberman is such a great defender of the poor and disadvantaged in Omaha, and I didn't know he had such a high interest in that area, but I'm glad to see it. But, nonetheless, I think it's important that every member on this body stand up and say, you know, do I pay a garbage collection fee at my home or my farm or my ranch? And everybody practically in this room will raise their hand except those of us who live in Omaha. And we don't in Omaha by tradition because it's been in our property taxes and, as Senator Morrissey now says, recycling and garbage collection is becoming a very expensive and costly item. It's going to become more so, and for the citizens to recognize what's going on in those costs, it's important that they have some sense of what the cost is. And to implement such a fee for about 100,000 households in the City of Omaha is probably going, if the city decides to do it, would be about \$7 a household. So it's a very cost effective method of doing it, allowing MUD to do it. Their billings are going to be about 44 cents per bill, so it's an efficient and effective way to do it. It allows the city some flexibility in its budgeting in the future. And I think it's important to know that you're giving the local option to the citizens where it most affects them. They can go to their City Council and support it or oppose it. They can go to their Mayor and support it or oppose it and they have much greater communication than they do with even those of us elected in this body today. I would simply say that this is a relatively noncontroversial bill and that the body probably has better things to worry about than allowing the City of Omaha whether or not it wants to collect a garbage fee. And I would move the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Before we proceed with debate, I would like to call the senators' attention to the north balcony. Special guests today of Senator Schmit are 14 juniors and seniors from David City High School. They are accompanied by their teacher. Will you please rise and be recognized. Thank you for being with us today. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?