

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I guess I would only ask Senator Morrissey a simple question and that is what tools do the municipalities and our counties have currently at their disposal for raising funds to handle this solid waste problem? Obviously, the property tax base would be one but are there other financial tools out there that they can go to to help them with the significant amount of revenue I think that it's going to take in this state to handle this very significant and very large problem? Other than NIFA and the property tax, are there other options out there?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: We...other than those contained in LB 1257 and NIFA, as it sets now, they...to do a complete integrated solid waste management system from start to finish, from planning to purchase of equipment facilities and operations, I don't think there is anything. To do purchase of equipment and other things, there are some sort of lease purchase arrangements that are available to some of them now but, as we said now, other than a property tax base and the instruments, the service agreements provided in 1257 and the NIFA financing provided in AM3567 and 1257, I don't really think they have many options from what we could find out.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, I'm not familiar with what I'm going to ask you, but under Subtitle D, have the federal government...or has the federal government provided any financial help to the states to deal with the solid waste problem?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Absolutely none, Senator.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Anyone else wishing to address this amendment? Senator Morrissey, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, again, it's LB 1205 that came through Banking Committee with just some technical changes that allow for refinancing at a better rate and to allow for a partial financing of operations that if you have an integrated system that some things weren't eligible for NIFA financing, they could fund the portion that is eligible or if certain parties involved in the financing weren't, they could