

what I'm being asked to do.

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If you do it to the people for whom I have concern, and there are people outside my district to whom my words apply also, if you do it, you're going to have a struggle on your hands. And I assure you that I will not get tired between now and the end of the few days we have remaining.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to support Senator Chambers' amendment. The issue is one of what does Senator Morrissey's bill allow? And I understand, I've talked to the representative from the City of Omaha and they believe that the law department there anyway thinks that this provision in LB 1257 does not give them the ability to propose a collection fee for purposes of garbage. I think the interpretation that Senator Morrissey gives is the correct one. He says, yes, it does, and that the ability would be there from this point forward. Ladies and gentlemen, the issue behind the collection fee, at least in Omaha, was addressed in the past as a property tax issue and the issue behind adding a garbage collection fee at this point would, I think, well, I don't think, I know would cause extreme hardship. It would be extremely difficult politically in the Omaha area, but that probably is not the real purpose for my opposing this. The real purpose for opposing it is that there is no fair way to impose it. I believe that in this case, as it relates to garbage collection, the property tax is the fairest way in which to do that. Presently, under the system, the property taxes are based on the value of the property and there is no distinction. I may generate two or three trash cans full of garbage, whereas the 90-year-old lady that lives next to me doesn't generate a bag of it on a weekly basis. But, under the collection fee system, as it would be put in place, you would be...we would both be paying the same. Mrs. Reeves and I would be paying the same amount even though the...the fee would be imposed on five people or the garbage that would be generated by five people in the case of my household, whereas Mrs. Reeves would be generating a fraction of that amount of garbage and yet paying the same fee. There is no good way to impose it. Granted, I don't have a problem with saying that we should be earmarking funds for purposes of solid waste management. And, frankly, it was I who proposed that a