

for that collection fee. And under the current system, the people are happy, and what we are doing if we adopt the Horgan amendment is saying we don't expect you to have to justify this, we are going to allow you the ability to raise it, collect it, and spend it, even though you haven't done the background work to develop the plan. Senator Morrissey, you ought to object to this amendment specifically and solely on that basis that they have not gone through the wringer, as you have. They haven't run across just the city, not...let alone the county, much less the state, in terms of developing a proposal for the most populous county in the state, the most populous city in the state, in how it is going to handle its garbage disposal, its refuse disposal, and its recycling efforts. We should not hand them the ability to raise more revenue when they haven't done this work. They surely haven't done it. What little they have done, hasn't been done in a satisfactory manner, and I believe that until that happens, you are not going to get support out of many of the Omaha representatives, and you are not going to get support from the citizens of Omaha for an additional fee on top of the current personal property...excuse me, real estate taxes that pay for this cost. I would again urge the body to reject Senator Horgan's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, this is a bill, and an idea that really Senator Morrissey has pushed to the forefront, and for that, I would like to commend him for all the hard work that he has spent on LB 1257. He has been involved in this issue from the beginning. He has realized that it has been a very important issue for the state, for our environment, for the state's groundwater, and he has helped to formulate a bill that has really dealt with a lot of the important issues that needed to be dealt with involving solid waste. And I think, though, that it is unfortunate that this bill that Senator Horgan is attempting to add onto 1257, which is, in essence, LB 1008, is being attached to this bill because I think it brings in a different type of focus. I feel that we should have a good recycling system set up throughout the state, most importantly in the metropolitan areas, areas that can easily accomplish this goal of recycling cans, bottles, newspapers, articles that do have an economic value, items that do fill up our landfills. I know different parts of the state have had to deal with the issue of landfills, but I can't imagine them being any more controversial than Douglas County. Well, I take that