

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BOHLKE: With the cap that Senator Hartnett just referred to, is it true then that this is more costly for smaller utilities?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, the...the smaller utilities will be paying the same \$25 per ton, but to the extent that they're smaller and don't produce as much, if they produce less than 4,000 tons per year the cap would not apply to them then, right. It would not curtail their payments.

SENATOR BOHLKE: So, proportion...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know if you'd characterize that as paying more or not, but...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, proportionately certainly those people being served by the smaller utilities would be paying more.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. You can argue that and...

SENATOR BOHLKE: I will.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and the League of Municipalities has mentioned that. They have not come in with an amendment. They would prefer to argue it next year as a separate matter. But that's a...that's a legitimate point.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. And that was...I had considered that amendment, but because of my support for Senator Morrissey's bill, I chose not to run that amendment. But would like a commitment from you, and maybe from Senator Morrissey that we can look at this and...before it would be enacted, see if we can do something to resolve the problem and address the situation between now and the time that it would be enacted. Is that an option that you would follow through on, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, if this were another time and place, that would certainly be an option I would follow through with. But if you're talking about prior to enactment, I guess I would have to say to you that I don't think there's time to gather information and explore that particular question at this point in time. Now, these fees don't go into effect, remember, for