

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 4, 1999 LB 59

when I was the...a freshman senator in this Legislature and Senator Lee Rupp was...used to sit back I think where Dwite Pedersen set and he...I remember one thing that he said. He said there's no such thing as a sunset in the Legislature. (Laugh) So maybe we will sunset it today that'll end at 2002, but probably when the people, the body, in 2002 will somehow find to keep it going. And so I'll probably support your sunset to end it at 2002, but I don't think the program will end in 2002. Thank you. (Laugh)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Is it cricket to change your mind and oppose the amendment that's been offered? That's what I propose to do right now. The more I hear this discussion, the more it bothers me. The intention of my bill was never to call into question this particular program. I think it's a very good program and I'm not sure what message we would be sending here today, particularly since there's never been a public hearing on sunsetting it. And I think we need to harken back to one of the reasons this whole program was put in place, was because of the bottle bill and the opposition at the time to the bottle bill. This was kind of something that was worked out. I have committed to coming back and looking at this, this whole area over the summer. I don't think the administrative costs are as much as maybe we first imagined. I've gotten some recent figures. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Fund is the only one I know about, but over a five-year period that program has taken in \$9.9 million for awards, or has actually awarded that much money, and over that five-year period the administrative costs have been \$548,000, about \$100,000 a year. The administrative cost is about 5.52 percent. That's pretty good, ladies and gentlemen. That's a pretty good number. I don't have the same figures for the Litter Fund, but that's not really what we're discussing here today. So I guess I change my mind. I would oppose the Baker amendment because I don't want to send the wrong message on this program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Preister, for discussion on the Baker amendment.