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LB 592

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler has very ably explained to you what is going to take place here. This bill probably does not belong on the jet ski bill or personal watercraft bill. But in our attempt to try and get it passed, because we think it's an important bit of legislation, we wanted to move the bill. It certainly was agreed upon by all committee members. And if we can do this process, I think it'll be cleaner and more up-front. LB 592 is a combination of two bills. It's really a combination of the scrap tire bill brought to us by Senator Connealy, LB 841, amended into LB 592...but they both deal with recycling, litter cleanup, solid waste. And they both contain fees. There's a dollar tire fee, which is extended...I'm trying to catch the date here...but it's extended for a few years. There's a dollar fee on it, every new tire that's bought, that's supposed to be used for tire cleanup and scrap tire processing. And there's a fee that businesses pay for recycling. And this has been on the books since 1997. It's generated approximately \$1.4 million. If a retail business sells more than \$30,000, or generates more than \$30,000 of sales a year, they pay a \$25 recycling fee. And that fee has generated a considerable amount of money over the years: about \$1,000,100...about \$1,100,000; and in 1998, \$1 million. It collects about \$1 million a year, and that's used for recycling and litter cleanup, and some of it's used for grants. The tire tipping...the tire fee has generated \$5 million up to date, and almost all of that money has already been obligated. But they'll be generating new funds with the tire cleanup. So the committee amendments will not become the bill. The amendment that Senator Beutler is going to offer will become the bill. But it is not a substantive change from the committee amendments. And so this bill has been discussed as an amendment on the personal watercraft bill, and I think this process is the way to go. I appreciate your support. If you have any questions, either Senator Connealy, Senator Beutler, or I will try to answer them. With that, I will close my remarks, and give the rest of the time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the committee amendment? Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. I support this...what Senator Beutler is trying to do. I support taking