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March 31, 2004 LB 657, 1090

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear and Senator Louden. Senator Redfield, on the Beutler amendment, AM3474, to LB 1090.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Indeed, Senator Beutler did introduce LB 657 in the Revenue Committee. We had a hearing. We had discussion with the Attorney General. But my conclusion was that in fact we should be prepared, because I believe that's responsible behavior. And if we as a government are not responsible, how can we expect our people to be responsible? In looking at the problem and looking at the generation of the waste, and believing very strongly that the people who make the mess ought to clean up the mess, I felt that Senator Beutler actually brought us a good proposal, because we would be asking the industries that generate the waste to help us solve the problem. And so I actually did make the motion to advance the bill, and was unfortunately not able to secure enough votes to achieve that goal. However, I do believe that this is the best proposal for us. One of the concerns that I did have, however, was that we were...we needed to be very sure that we had a fire wall there that ensured that every dime that was collected would go toward the settlement if we were to have to pay it, or to solving the problem of disposing of our waste in the event we were to escape judgment. And one of the concerns that I do have about the amendment is the last paragraph, which would transfer any leftover monies into the General Fund. I think the intent of the three-year window is that this money would be available for a judgment, or certainly for disposal of waste, and I support that concept. Senator Beutler asked me yesterday, well, Senator Redfield, what revenue would you support? Well, Senator Beutler, this is one I did support. This is one I'm going to vote for today, because I think it is responsible behavior on the part of the government of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Kremer, followed by Senators Burling, Beutler, Price, Schimek, and others.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the