

that we will know when an accident occurs. We will know soon if there is, in fact, some damage to the aquifer or some leakage or potential damage to the aquifer. Now, if that final point is an important point to you and I think it ought to be, it is to me, that we know and we have it reported to us soon after a leak occurs. Then under the mechanisms of the bill as it currently is and as it will be amended with the amendments that Senator Johnson and I offer to you, the individual who owns the tank, the individual or individuals who own this particular storage tank, come...first of all, they register the tank, they jump through all the hoops that we've created, they report immediately that there is a loss or a leak as soon as they discover it and then if there is a cost for cleanup they bear the cost of the cleanup. Now, I suggest to you that that is a disincentive to early reporting. I suggest to you that there is a lot of people that are going to say, you know, I know it's going to cost me or I'm afraid it's going to cost me so I'm not going to say anything. I'm just going to put in a new tank and I'm just going to ignore the fact that I had a leak in the old one and I hope that nobody ever notices it, and we could have a potentially much worse problem later on as a result of it. It seems to me that the analogy could be used that it would be very similar to...I'm going to use myself because I nobody else ever does it, that you're driving down the highway and you're driving 70, 75 miles an hour and then because you see a truck up ahead of you slow down, you slow down too and a couple miles down the road you're driving 55 and you see a state patrolman alongside the road, it would be very similar to you pulling over and stopping the safety patrolman and saying, hey, why don't you arrest me because I was doing 75 miles an hour two miles back. Well, I don't know about the rest of you, but I wouldn't do that and I'm guessing that people are generally not going to do that with the reporting of leaking storage tanks either if they think it's going to cost them a considerable sum to perhaps clean it up, so under the amendment that I offer to you, under the amendment that I'm bringing forth there would be a mechanism whereby this individual who reported promptly would be limited to the liability that they would have in terms of cleanup. They would have some assistance from a fund that would be created by the registration process of these tanks. Now, yeah, I'm talking in general terms about probably one of the more controversial subjects in a super fund, but I'm not creating an entire super fund, I'm simply raising the issues in