

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised. Senator Rod Johnson, are you going to handle that? Okay.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, there has been a lot of confusion on this issue and partly to blame is the fact that we killed the committee amendments. We were hoping to get these amendments as replacement amendments and so this package right here, it has been disseminated to your desk, it is on your desk now, is actually the committee amendment or will be the committee amendments. Essentially what the new amendments will do or the new amendments replacing those committee amendments will be to exempt farm and residential tanks of less than 1,100 gallons except there will be a one-time \$5 fee then registration requirements. The key to this is to try at least to give the Fire Marshal's Office and Department of Environmental Control an idea as to where those underground storage tanks are located and quite possibly, what is in those tanks. There is also removal of the effective date back to January 1 of 1987. It also includes a commercial tank's permit fee that is based on their volume or the number of gallons that those tanks hold. Points four and five are simply clean-up language that we brought in because of federal changes in federal requirements. Number six and seven just basically...number six especially provides for if a permit is denied, a procedure that is set up in order to come in and try and have a hearing set up in order to find out why your permit was rejected. Finally, seven just helps the Fire Marshal's Office clean up some of their problems. The bottom line is that the replacement amendments retain the intent of the committee amendments, however, it cleans them up and adds new requirements from the federal government that retain the objective of opposing the least burdensome requirements upon farm and residential tanks of less than 1,100 gallons. I think, as I said, we've tried to work these amendments out with the committee, Senator Vickers' office, Senator Beutler's office, DEC, the State Fire Marshal's Office. These are the amendments that I wanted to offer as substitutes to the committee amendments. I think that they will meet with, I think, I'm hoping, to the goals of this body because I think these amendments do help clear up the bill and clarify it quite a bit. I'll turn the rest of my time over to Senator Vickers if he'd like to speak on these.