

SPEAKER NICHOL: You have two and a half minutes.

SENATOR VICKERS: Was I next then, too, Mr. Speaker? My light is on. Am I next as well?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Continue on.

SENATOR VICKERS: The...thank you. Mr. President and members, the one thing that you need to understand is that the amendments that Senator Johnson and I are offering to you are going another step further than the original intent of the bill. As I understand the original intent of the bill was to put into place mechanisms that would give us on the state level, through the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Department of Economic...or of DEC, of Environmental Control, the means to register, to know where underground storage tanks are at and to monitor them for commercial tanks. My concern was that it really doesn't make any difference once you get gasoline or some other hazardous substance in the aquifer, what size of a tank it came from or what type of an operation that it came from. And I know that there are a lot of...a number of farm tanks, a number of individuals who have gasoline, diesel fuel and so forth buried in underground tanks. Now, I thought it was important that we have some mechanism to recognize that. Now, that is above and beyond the scope of EPA or the intention of this original bill, but the Agriculture Committee agreed that, yes, it was important because of the interest that we have in this body and in this state on the issue of water quality. You know those of us that live on the farms and ranches drink that water, too. We are affected by it sometimes much worse and quicker than a lot of the other folks are. So the amendment that we offer to you sets up a mechanism that will allow the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Department of Environmental Control the ability to know where storage tanks are at regardless of whether they are commercial tanks or farm operator's tanks or individual tanks, but we do it in a mechanism that the individual tanks only have to have a one-time registration fee of only \$5. That registration fee is good until they are notified that that tank has been abandoned. There is no requirements in regard to the monitoring as it is for the commercial tanks so that there is some mechanism to measure periodically. That requirement is not there. There is a requirement that would require the distributors of fuel, the people who fill these tanks up, to once a year to send a