

February 19, 1992 LB 1008

rise to oppose LB 1008. You have been told that it merely gives the authority, merely gives the authority to the City Council to impose this tax. All of the years I have been down here we have merely given the authority to the county board and to the city council that if they would vote in favor of a tax, they can do it. I have never, never, never seen an instance when we have given the county board or the city council the authority to add a tax that they have not added the tax. So what we're doing here, if we pass this legislation, we're going further than giving them the authority, we are, in fact, taxing the people of Omaha an extra \$84 a year or \$7 a month. Now it was in the bill that they could shut off your water if you didn't pay it. That's terrible. That's just terrible to say to folks, if you don't pay this bill, we're going to shut your water off. So somebody said, well, maybe we better take another look at this puppy and take that out, so they did. Now this is going to raise \$8.4 million a year. That's a lot of money. And where is it going to come from? Every home that they're picking up garbage, which means the low income, it means the people in north Omaha, south Omaha, the low income people, the moderately income people, are going to pay \$84 a year or \$7 a month, and some of these folks don't have \$7 a month. That's wrong, Tom? Some of them don't have \$7 a month. So...oh, also, I believe Omaha pays a wheel tax and they have all sorts of taxes that other people don't have. So I would suggest to this body that we do not advance 1008. I know that Senator Horgan did this as a favor to the City Council and I compliment him for that. I don't think he's going to bleed and die over the bill, so I would suggest that you do not advance 1008. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I rise to support LB 1008 and I fully expect the City Council to charge the charges that Senator Haberman is so concerned about. We can...we have to understand what solid waste, the properly managed solid waste system is. You can no longer hide the costs of disposing of your solid waste because as you continue to do that, you continue to incur long-term costs that cost the entire state, including the western part, in tax money for cleanups, etcetera, etcetera. You can no longer expect to volunteer your way to Subtitle D. Solid waste disposal is a public utility just like electricity. You expect people to pay their