

electricity bill, you should expect them to pay their solid waste disposal bill. Reduction and recycling are two of the main components of a good integrated solid waste management system but they're not easy to obtain. Try to mandate reduction and recycling in this state and you'll run into some walls, but you can hold out carrots and sticks. One way to do that is to clearly identify the cost of solid waste management. If you've got a family of six and a family of three living on the same block, and the family of six produces two 30-gallon containers of garbage a week, and the family of three produces three 30-gallon containers of garbage a week, the family of six should be rewarded for their efforts in reduction. The family of six should be rewarded for their efforts in recycling. People...people have sat back and said, why should I reduce or make the effort to buy responsibly packaged items that are less convenient for me? Why should I do that? It doesn't pay. And that good, warm feeling you get for doing the right thing only goes so far. So we need to clearly identify costs of solid waste disposal to encourage a volume-based system that will reward reduction and recycling. Part of the problem with recycling is there is no product so there is no market. There is no market because there is no product, and no product because there's no market and on and on. And the markets that do exist are many miles away and to ship plastics and other recycled materials is costly because they're so light. So we must identify the hidden costs. Omaha, for years, has hidden the costs of their solid waste disposal within their taxing system. They did not clearly identify it. What they're asking for now is the authority to clearly identify the cost of their solid waste disposal system. Other parts of the state have done the same. As we held hearings across the entire state over the last year on solid waste, we heard people say they are not charged anything for solid waste disposal or they're charged a dollar a month, or they're charged \$6 a month. And now we're going to have to try and take them beyond that to ten...\$10 and maybe more for responsible disposal of their waste. So when you go from zero to ten, that's a quantum leap for some people. But, Senator Haberman, they're not...they've not been getting away for one dollar a month or zero dollars a month this whole time because there are costs involved that you just don't see. Just because it's not on your tax statement doesn't mean you're not supporting a system that uses the roads, a system that potentially contaminates the water and costs the entire state in cleanup later on.