

I will stand in opposition to the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Speaker Baack. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I think Senator Beutler is on the right track of trying to make something very fair. The \$100 per label, per manufacturer, in the middle spectrum of chemicals is probably fair. This would be the very fairest way of all, and perhaps could be addressed by collecting the fee at the retail level, because retailers do separate their sales into various categories of service chemicals, fertilizers, or whatever else merchandise that they do...they do provide. But I can see that getting it instigated and put in would be quite difficult. I'd be more interested in a sliding scale for the small volume chemicals to have a lower labeling fee and the very high volumed a higher fee. But I can see that this year we're going to have what's in the bill. And I'd sure encourage you all to look at the fairness issue, because it's very similar to the blanket, across the board, \$3 or \$4 a ton on fertilizers. And that's inherently unfair because of the ingredient percentages in various fertilizers. And I think that that's going to be addressed by another bill. But I assur...I certainly endorse this concept. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Madam President, I also understand where Senator Beutler is coming from. But we're...we're basically talking about a policy decision here. And although I think he's drafted an amendment that is more amenable than several of them that we looked at yesterday, it's really placing a lot of the policy decision in the hands of the director as to how to...how to charge fees on these products, and we're not really giving them any criteria to do that with. We're simply saying the fee may be increased after a public hearing outlining the reasons. I would...I would almost rather see how the system works a year or two, perhaps come back in and look at this area after we have some more information and develop some criteria. I think...I think it puts an awful lot of discretion in the hands of the director to simply give him...give him the authority to raise the fee based on any criteria that he would determine were appropriate. And I...I...I would have some concerns about that. If the fee were more than \$100, I would have more concern about the equities. One hundred dollars, when you look at other states, and again I have those schedules here at my desk if