

it, and I think that those concerns have been addressed in the amendments. Just compliment Senator Beutler for, once again, as with many other bills in Natural Resources, he worked with those people who had concerns to come up with some solutions that were agreeable to everybody. I'm grateful to him and to the staff for the work that went into this and other bills. I think these amendments do open up the accounts for additional grants from private individuals, and should see some of that money moving. I think the amendments are good, I support them and the bill as it will be amended. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I think this is a...is a very important piece of legislation. In my district I have been to small towns of filling stations where we have absolutely mountains of tires, and the people that operate those stations are saying what...why isn't something happening here; we've been collecting this tax for some time, and we still have no outlet for these tires, there's no productive use for them, and people are asking when is something going to happen. Well this legislation will, with the establishment of priorities for grants to focus on tire recycling should help that problem. In addition, by opening it up and expanding it to private grants as well, perhaps we can get some action. I still think private enterprise provides answers many times when the public sector can't find the solutions. And this legislation addresses that and opens up the fund for broader uses and more flexibility. So I really encourage the body to move this legislation along, we need it. And I think it will be one of the better pieces of legislation that we enact this year. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I don't know whether to ask Senator Robinson this, or maybe someone else. I, too, agree with Senator Bromm. I've got a lot of response in my district also about wondering where this money is and why it's going so high. And I guess my question is not so much questioning the amendment but why the restriction on expanding the fee was taken out, the tire account? Many asked me, why do we have so much money in there when it's not doing anything? If that question was answered I apologize. But I guess I would like to hear the answer to that again for my edification because I thought that might not have been such a