

the right way. So I guess I support this bill because we heard it in Natural Resources Committee. But I think we need to look at, you know, we are...we are generating lots of funds, and are...are government agencies spending them the right way, that's....I have a concern about, a little concern about that. But I think we need to do that. I think we have to have some concern for the environment, but I think we have to keep kind of a very close look at how money is being spent.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I would rise in support of LB 444, Senator Robinson's bill, and simply want to reinforce some of the things Senator Hartnett has said. We have, as I think many of the members know, we have a number of funds that have been created over the past couple years. One is a bill that I will have hopefully coming out of the Natural Resources Committee soon, Senator Beutler, LB 203, that deals with the retail collection fee that goes to the recycling fund. And the tire money goes into the recycling fund, and the tipping fee goes into the recycling fund, and then we have the litter collection fund which goes to the reduction of waste and other good projects. And certainly I want to be an advocate for the environment and for making sure that we have a state that is good for ourselves and for future generations, and we need to provide dollars to take care of the environment. I think Senator Robinson is doing a good thing with his bill in that he's doing two important things. One is you're collecting a tire tax, a dollar per tire, some priority ought to be given to the million and a half tires that are going into landfills in this state every year. And so far those tire fees have not gone into solving that problem that we have. Senator Robinson is going to give some priority to those projects and also will allow private industry to make applications for some of these grants. And those are two important aspects. If we're going to ask people to pay an extra tax to take care of our problem in the landfills with tires, we ought to give some preference to that. That's what Senator Robinson is doing in 444, and I think that's a good thing. There will be another bill, hopefully with Senator Hartnett and I, we're merging a bill together dealing with the retail tax and the litter reduction fund. And that's going to not single out one single industry and make them pay a tax that very few other people pay, and we'll hopefully have the opportunity to debate that issue. But we do have to be good stewards of this fund and make sure that the dollars are being