

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President, Senator Beutler, in his opening, mentioned about my bill, LB 674, and what it really did was it tried to define what was food for human consumption, and I think it will bring more people into...because places like K-Mart and a few places, like Senator Horgan said, sell food but they have not been paying this fee. And then what it defines fee, it follows what was done in the State of Oregon, kind of follows that, and also makes it easier for the merchants, like Senator Janssen up there, is that it allows him to estimate how much of their product is, with the Department of Revenue, how much percentages, rather than, you know, counting every item as food, and this is something else, and so forth. So we put it in statute, and so that's basically what LB 674 did. You know, hopefully, we can do away with the fee that Senator Horgan has that we are hitting the merchants twice. We've lowered it to \$25, but, hopefully, in a year that can go away. By my redefining what is food, we'll bring more people into paying this fee plus letting...easier for the merchants simply to make a definition and that's really what LB 674...and I do...this was part of the amendment that Senator Beutler introduced and so I think it is a good step with helping have a fee for litter reduction but also make it easier on our merchants in this state.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President and members of the body. Senator Beutler, I would like to ask a question. First of all, you should never start out by telling us this is a real confusing issue, and that you're going to try to make it simpler because we stay confused from that moment on. I can assure you I am, but in your remarks, I believe, and also in the summary, it says that after one year the proceeds from the litter fee equal \$1.4 million, then the annual waste reduction and recycling fee shall be repealed. My question is if it raises \$1 million, for instance, then the other one doesn't get repealed, do you keep raising money with both of them then? I mean, how does this work?

SENATOR BEUTLER: If at the end of that time period it hasn't raised sufficient fund money, we are going to have to go back and reassess the situation and reduce again one of the taxes.