

it. You bring these cans in, and it is a terrible mess. The Health Department is on your back because of the roaches and bugs and so on that are in these cans. So I would much rather see us pay a litter tax fee, but let's not, let's not tax us twice on the same thing, and this legislation will take care of that, and as I said before, I believe that we will pick up additional monies from other departments, so that we won't be...the 25 dollar fee can go away a little faster. Thank you.

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

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President, members. I'd like to try, if I can, to give a little clarification to the things that are going on and the thoughts behind the bills. First of all, the 50 and 25 dollar fees that are now being collected are from retail businesses. The qualifying sales are on the sale of tangible properties, and the real unfairness of this tax, let's give an example, you have a flower shop in a mall. They are selling tangible properties and, therefore, subject to the 25 or 50 dollar tax. Right next door, there will be an accountant or a law firm, perhaps, that generates more trash than the flower shop, but they pay no fee. So some business is paying the 25 or 50, and many other business entities are not. This is inherently unfair. Yes, some of the businesses that qualify for the litter fee are also paying the 25 or 50 dollar tax at this point, some of them, so the double tax that Senator Schimek was talking about is present, and the effect of lowering the threshold, will increase the number of those people that will be paying the \$25 and the litter reduction fee temporarily until we see what's going to happen as far as the amounts of money that we generate. The litter reduction fee that is based on sale of grocery items and fast foods are intended to help the recycling effort and subsidize those people who are involved, as is the litter reduction fee that the businesses are now paying. But if we really want to be fair and have to, at the end of the time, at the end of time to see that the fees are going to be enough from the litter reduction tax being raised by \$25 per 100,000, and lowering of the threshold, I think at that time we should look at the definition of a retail business so that anyone, whether he is an accountant or a lawyer or a doctor or a flower shop or a stationary shop, should be included in that fee because they do all generate waste, and the unfairness now is based on the fact that only those businesses that are selling tangible properties are being taxed. Thank you, Madam President.