

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

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. Just briefly, again, to state that the situation that 203 is in now with the committee amendments, I think, through some hard work by Senator Beutler and Senator Hartnett and our staffs is about as good of a bill as we are going to get to try and solve this problem. Because the Revenue Department, and I don't mean to beat up on the Revenue Department too bad, but because they are unable to give us accurate projections of how much money we're able to raise, how much and from who we are raising this money from, we are somewhat shooting in the dark with these figures, and that is why the bill is kind of convoluted the way it is. And what Senator Beutler has attempted to do is to ensure that the money remains there for the environment while creating an equitable fee, and that's why you have to continue on with the retail fee, which is not to my pleasure or liking, for one year, and then sunset it, hopefully, if we increase the revenue stream off the litter tax. In a perfect world, you'd be able go to the Revenue Department and you would say if we raised the litter fee this much, how much will we generate, and they would tell you. They are not able to do that, and why they are not able to do that is probably another subject for another debate, but I think that is something that this Legislature needs to look at because if we don't know where our money is coming from or how we are generating it, all of our projections are not going to be very good. But I think 203 is as good a compromise as we can come up with. It is going to, hopefully, solve the problem. It will probably have to be addressed again in the future, but at least we are taking an important first step in eliminating a tax that I think is blatantly unfair, and, hopefully, moving towards creating a litter reduction fee that is more fair than has been in the past. Thank you.

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

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President, members of the body, I simply rise again to support this amendment, which becomes the bill, but I think Senator Vrtiska made some good comments. I think that we really are entering a new era with collection of litter fees and so forth, and I think we have to then, as we collect this money, and one of the goals of the committee was to keep the figure around \$1.4 million for...into both fees, but to see that the money is spent very prudently by the committees as