

their teacher and sponsor. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Senator Hall, then Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the Schellpeper amendment. I agree with the idea and the issue, the strict liability that is in the amendment. But I would urge the body to hold off for the... Senator Schmit's amendment that will deal with that issue on the three-mile standard. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I heard testimony in a couple different places across the state with regard to the issue of low-level nuclear waste and the disposal of that. The issue is an important issue to the citizens of this state. It's an important issue to this body to determine and I was more than happy to support Senator Schellpeper and seeing LB 1092 advanced out of committee. I think it's important that we discuss the issue and have this bill in final form adopted by the body before we adjourn. Senator Coordsen raised a real interesting point when he said that there is a lot of money that is in this issue and I think he was saying that in relation to the liability issue. But I remember when we first...when I first dealt with this topic where the Natural Resources Committee had a public hearing out in North Platte and it was on the topic of low-level nuclear waste and it was the first time that I had the opportunity to ask some questions of the folks from US Ecology and I know their past record has been brought up on the floor and has been questioned and I questioned it that day but I think I got adequate answers and adequate explanation about the facility that we're dealing with here. When you talk about the type of facility and then put the strict liability requirements in that the Schellpeper amendment will have, I think you, in essence, are protecting the public to the best possible degree that we can. But when we talk about money, one of the things that I found extremely interesting is the amount of money that a facility like this will generate. If there was a problem with any part of the agreement, I guess I would argue that the problem is that the state and possibly the local subdivision won't be getting enough of their fair share. Senator Coordsen, I would almost like to see the State of Nebraska...and I see Senator Lamb standing over there, I remember we talked about this out in North Platte that day that possibly it would be better for the state to take it over when you looked at the figures that were being used in terms of the amount of revenue that's going to be generated for a facility that's going to cost