

And I think you may reconsider who, indeed, is misinformed and who, indeed, is trying to do the right thing and protect the State of Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. The next speaker is Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I clearly anticipated this debate would degenerate to an issue around the situation involving the Executive Director of the compact, Mr. Peery, and his recent arrest. But LB 827, which I introduced, was not designed to take away any powers of the monitoring committee. In fact, Senator Morrissey knows, in the committee as we talked with the people of Boyd County and Nemaha and Knuckolls Counties, that what we wanted was a workable situation, one in which in particular in Boyd County since it's the preferred site at this particular point, the one that looks to be under the process of being licensed, the Monitoring Committee should work. I want them to work. But the activities of Mr. Peery, the alleged activities of Mr. Peery, should not...and I do not see any correlation between his indiscretions and what we have an obligation to do as members of the Central States Interstate Compact...or Compact. We still have that obligation. That hasn't been relieved of us because Ray Peery has been arrested. Grant you, Senator Morrissey, I'm as upset and angry and disappointed at what happened as anybody in this room, more so because my neck's hanging out there with a lot of other people because I believed that what we were doing was the responsible course of action. He has violated my faith in this process as much as anybody else's and I'm disappointed with that. But that doesn't relieve you or me of recognizing we've got an obligation to this compact, we haven't been relieved of that and we've got things we've got to do. Now today Senator Morrissey has four amendments pending. I'm going to oppose three of the four. I think they're...the last one is one that I can support. What I see in most of these amendments, as I review them, are, one, slow the process down, which I am not necessarily opposed to. I would like to see the process open as much as possible. And Senator Morrissey is right, there have been some very serious problems between the public and the compact and the US Ecology but we're trying to get through those problems. But adding additional cost, adding additional time to the process doesn't necessarily make the process any better. We need better accountability. I think Mr. Hoppner was on the right course and whoever his successor is going to be on the