

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 1999 LB 475, 530, 574
 LR 58

reports (LB) 475, (LB) 574 correctly engrossed. And I have confirmation hearing notices from Natural Resources, and a hearing schedule on LR 58 to be scheduled. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (See pages 1285-1286 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is three o'clock. We are...next move to General File, committee priority bills, LB 530.

CLERK: Mr. President, 530 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Dierks. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 19, referred to Natural Resources. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on LB 530.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, LB 530 is a simple bill. It just simply withdraws the state of Nebraska from the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. It brings to an end all the years of frustration, mistreatment, and browbeating the state of Nebraska has endured at the hands of the compact commissioners, the private contractor, US Ecology, and private producers of nuclear waste. When I introduced a similar bill two years ago, the Legislature sought an opinion as to the financial consequences of Nebraska's withdrawal from the compact. That opinion, from a Washington, DC, law firm, confirmed what we had said all along, that Nebraska would only be responsible for its share of the compact expenses during the five-year withdrawal period. This amounts to \$25,000 per year. That's it. Otherwise, there would be no consequences for withdrawal. Members of the Legislature, we are a sovereign state. At no time did Nebraska surrender its sovereignty by entering this compact. The other compact states persist in treating Nebraska as a second-class citizen. Remember that Nebraska is a public power state, the only one in the nation. It is time for Nebraska to stand up for itself and end this madness and withdraw from the compact. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM PRESIDING