

pressure applied to the companies to come up with biodegradable diapers. Now let me tell you that I want, for the record, to indicate, Senator Hefner, that if I'm still here in a couple of years and they haven't come up with a biodegradable diaper, I'm going to move to repeal or delay that deadline because I don't want to take away the right to have disposable diapers. But I think once set and that goal is articulated, I think you will see a response to it and I think we can come up with a solution. I don't think it's impossible, it's just simply not being pursued because enough pressure has not been applied. And I can tell you, as a parent, I haven't written to the companies saying, you ought to do something about this. I haven't said I have guilt feelings and bad feelings about this, let's do something about it. And I certainly buy enough products that maybe they would listen to me if I did contact them. But, nevertheless, you don't find the consumer out there expressing the kind of concerns that I think need to be expressed. This body is a policymaking body for the state. We know it's bad to have these diapers out there in our landfills not biodegradable and our way to do something about it is to help Senator Hefner and adopt this amendment and do something about the problem. It's a reasonable attempt to set a goal and move toward it and I would ask your support for the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, you know, this is an interesting problem. It's interesting because of the long term environmental impacts that these plastics are posing to our future. It's a problem but it's a problem that no one ever knows about because we bury the problem. We put the diapers in a plastic bag, that plastic bag goes to a landfill and the landfill...in the landfill it gets buried under dirt and other debris. So it isn't a problem that we see every day. It isn't a problem like they're having up in Alaska with spilled oil all over their shoreline, killing fish, seals, destroying the environment. But it's a time bomb. It's something that's going to be buried in our earth and it's not going to...it's not going to be biodegradable. And maybe that's why we haven't had a lot of constituents contacting us about a problem. If those diapers were left out on the street and they saw the diapers being piled up and piled up and piled up, we would have a lot of constituents contacting us, but that's not the case because we