

SENATOR LANDIS: No doubt the system is flawed. Unfortunately, many of the critics I think urge us into sort of an illusory race in which the possibility of jumping over and meeting the various obstacles that everyone might have to, in fact, meet our obligations with the compact just makes it as if, yes, we will have one more study, if we will have one more hearing, if we will have a vote of the people, if we'll bring in one more expert, we might be able to build the nuclear waste site and meet our obligations. Unfortunately, we've got to meet the obligations of the compact and it seems to me that we can't do that and create a whole series of obstacles that one by one can always keep out in front of us, but always beyond our grasp the prospect of meeting our obligations formed by the Legislature, number one, by the congressional compact, number two, and by the vote of the people this last year, number three.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR LANDIS: We have to be able to actually have the power to carry out our functions in the compact and the vote of the people in this case would defeat that from happening it seems to me. So, I support this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper is announcing that he has some guests in our south balcony, 32 eighth graders from Scribner/Snyder with their teacher and their superintendent. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're glad you could be with us this afternoon. Additional discussion, Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I plan on supporting this particular amendment to the bill. I'm not entirely pleased with the situation that we're being faced with though. I think really the only bottom line protection that the State of Nebraska has against a company coming in here and causing severe environmental damage to our state is liability. Unless we protect our own state through our liability laws, I think we could have some very serious problems down the road and the only way we can protect ourselves is by placing into statute certain liability criteria. Now this particular amendment from what I understand is an approach to a difficult situation. In a sense it is a compromise because of a concern that we will not have the insurance to adequately handle a problem which could occur with the low-level nuclear waste site here in the state, but I...my belief is though that we should first enact legislation