

that protects the citizens in the form of liability standards that will protect our citizens. I've seen it happen too often where an issue is significant, an issue is important such as this particular bill is, a bill that has to be passed and the next year we'll say we'll take care of the problem in a piece of legislation for the following year and it just won't happen. I think this is going to be the last train out when it comes to this particular issue and, I don't know, some of the individuals that are involved in this particular issue that are fighting to protect the rights of some of the citizens in the state feel that next year we might have a chance to change some of these liability laws, I think are just being unrealistic. If you want to change those liability laws, you'd better do it with this particular bill because next year this is not going to be the issue that it is this year. This piece of legislation has to be enacted, and unless we put in the liability laws that we want to live with in this particular bill, we're probably not going to get them next year. Now I think we ought to study it, that's fine. I serve on the Judiciary Committee and I think that studying this particular issue is important, but why not put those standards in the bill at this time and then come back next year and study it? What we're talking about is a possible, though I hope a situation that never does occur, that somehow this low-level nuclear waste site could cause severe problems to the environment some place down the road. We're talking about citizens in this state that could be harmed by this site. Now it's my belief that, at least I've been assured by individuals involved in this that this will not occur, but by putting liability standards in the law, I think we will more than adequately assure our citizens that the companies that will be taking control of this low-level nuclear waste site will offer the highest standard of protection for our citizens. The courts are there for our protection and the protection of our citizens. I'm going to be supporting this particular amendment, but I certainly would be in support of establishing higher standards of liability in this particular bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I'm not going to speak very long. I appreciate the comments we have had from the attorneys of the Legislature who understand the issue I think very thoroughly. I support the study of the issue by the Judiciary Committee. It is a proper area of study for the Judiciary Committee and one which they are well-equipped to