

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Kind of, yes. I just want to make sure that we realize that the thrust of my amendment is to give this local monitoring committee actual powers of their own so they aren't just a token committee that is just there to review data, but they actually will participate in the studies with their own professionals and their own budget, and with their budget, they will be accountable through quarterly reports to the DEC, and I didn't see all of that in here. So I guess I will just support this and offer my own amendment as it was later on and we will sort that out when it comes up.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Weihing, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I just want to rise in support of this amendment. I do want to make a few comments with regards to the Division of Conservation and Survey. It has been in existence for a great many years. There is no state in the Union that has as much knowledge of the underground resources than we have. The Division of Conservation and Survey got started many, many, many years ago and under the great leadership of Professor Condra. We know more about our water resources, by far, than any other place in the world. We know more about our underground geology in the world and, interestingly, when this was coming along a month or two ago and Boyd County was having some questions, I called up and asked about it at the Division of Conservation and Survey, and if you want to see a geologic report with regards to Boyd County, here it is. I don't have it of Nemaha County or the others. Now what I want to point out is they are a tremendous resource. It is a tremendous resource that is there. They have volumes of data with regards to the underground geologic structure of it here in Nebraska and could be, Senator Morrissey, a tremendous help and assistance. They are yours. They are the people for the people of the state, and so we should utilize this. The person who did this one on Boyd County said, interestingly, he said, I never dreamed that we would be thinking about a low-level radioactive waste when we were doing this kind of study, and they have a lot of it. I certainly support Schmit's amendment and let us utilize resources and work together and take the information we have, new information that is gathered, and build it into the strongest informational base for our own utilization safety of this proposed low-level radioactive waste site or bunker that is going to be built.