

something that we have struggled with in the Natural Resources Committee. It set back...all the people in the district are having a problem with it almost to the person on how this money should be distributed and I feel this would be more properly addressed in the Revenue Committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Morrissey amendment, Senator Smith. Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I would rise in objection to Senator Morrissey's amendment. These funds are not taxes, are not in lieu of tax. These funds are compensation paid by the state to the local entities for the purpose of trying to achieve some equity to the local entities for having accepted the site. The Natural Resources Committee does have a number of years, many years of experience working in this area. We work, as has been pointed out by Senator Elmer here earlier, not only with the responsibility of low-level waste but other hazardous waste, and we are going to have to work with that many more times in the future. This is a recognition of a responsibility which we feel is owed to that community. It may very well be that as we get into the study of this issue that we will learn that there needs to be some recognition addressed to the communities which in the future will be storing hazardous waste, will be performing other responsibilities in the area that we are talking about. This is not a taxation measure. If it were a taxation issue, I would be first in line to suggest that it go to Revenue. It is not a taxation issue. It is a compensation issue properly reposit with the Natural Resources Committee. Senator Morrissey is a member of that committee and certainly, as such, would be in a key position to watch how the study progresses and he ought to do so and I am sure he will do so. So, Mr. President, I would respectfully oppose Senator Morrissey's amendment and ask that the responsibility for the study of the funding be left where it properly belongs, and that is with the Natural Resources Committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, on the amendment.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Natural Resources Committee has been dealing with the issues of public power where the majority of this material is generated. It has been dealing with the low-level waste issue for many years. It has been dealing with many other issued relative to this. I feel that the expertise that has been generated within our committee and