

Kristensen. Discussion on the Schmit amendment, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of this amendment as a member of the Natural Resources Committee. I think it does clear up a good deal of some of the things that have been happening during this siting process, and it does clarify the intentions of the bill. Senator Schmit has made a good explanation that the funds that are being distributed in the three study areas are not intended to be nor would they be subject to changing any of the siting process, if accepted or not. I would support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I wonder if I could ask Senator Schmit a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Schmit, as I read it, the Compact Commission statement says that acceptance of funds binds the community to participate, is that correct?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, that is not correct, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, then I have been misinformed I guess.

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, that is not correct. Thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: What authority does this Legislature have with respect to the Compact Commission, then?

SENATOR SCHMIT: This Legislature has authority in so much as we accept that authority to designate this type of rule, this type of statute, insofar as the distribution of the funds, and to designate and delineate that the Legislature has no desire to block in, so to speak, a community by virtue of the fact that they have accepted funds, and we have (interruption) responsibility.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING