

PRESIDENT: Senator Kristensen, please, followed by Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. On most all of these amendments, I have been very supportive and I have been very supportive of the bill, the amendments to the committee amendments, and so on, in fact, some of the other amendments, but this is one where I am going to have to stop and tell you that I have a little bit of problem with this, and I have a problem with the very first and second lines of this when they talk about being residents, because really what this amendment is is what we call an ex post facto law. It is one we are going to pass after something has happened to address a specific situation that we don't like, and what is being referred to is the nomination that was made by the residents of Nora, which is in my district, so if you want to say this is a hometown issue, you are right. It is, but I want to explain to you why they did that and why I am concerned about legislating them out of their choice. These people mostly are farmers, very good farmers. They are small community members. They are not experts in the area of low-level waste. They are not an expert in radiation. They are not an expert in how we distribute money. They are not an expert in liability. They are not an expert in big companies or anything like that and, quite frankly, they need some help, and so they chose a gentleman by the name of Hugh Kaufman to come in and help them. It was someone who they felt, although they may not necessarily agree with every view or observation, but that he could ask the right questions, that he could assist them in going some directions. And one man is not going to control this committee. There are nine members. We have already chose those nine members of this monitoring committee, and so the fear that one outsider is going to control the committee and take over, he is one vote out of nine, and I think the problem has become that the monitoring committees feel helpless, and they feel like everything is being shoved down their throat, and they feel like we don't have any input, and what they really asked for in this selection was somebody from the outside who had these abilities to ask the questions. And I know that some people in the administration are outraged at this and they don't like that. Quite frankly, when they made that selection, there was nothing in our law, despite the Attorney General's opinion, that prevented them from calling what they felt to be an expert to come in and do this, and this is the one amendment, if you are going to vote against any of them, this is