

addressed by one of Senator Schmit's amendments. It would give the local monitoring committees \$100,000 apiece to use however they thought necessary in having some control over the siting of this facility. It would also allow for the qualified inspectors, determined by the Department of Environmental Control, to have the right of independent access to the facility, the right to inspect all records and activities at the site, and carry out joint inspections with the DEC. It would also give \$100,000, up from 50 to a 100 thousand, to the final site monitoring committee. As I said earlier, this process, since 1983, has been rammed through this Legislature with very, very little debate. The early debate centered on how most of this waste would come from hospitals. That was not what was heard in the committee hearing but that was what was presented on the floor, that 90 percent of this waste was hospital waste. We found out later 95 percent of the waste was from power plants, and a maximum of 5 percent was from hospitals. The next time the bill came around, the bill jumped from General File, and we took a bill on Final Reading, pulled it off of Final Reading, gutted it, and said here comes one of those milestones again, we have got to pass legislation to meet the federal milestones. So we took off of Select File, gutted it, and turned it into our low-level waste bill, again avoiding all rational debate on the issue. That is the history of this bill, the history of this process in the state. So if you wonder why the people are uneasy, just go back, like they have, and read all the testimony, all the debate, all the times they were promised that this facility will not be in Nebraska, the chances are 100 to 1 that it will be in Nebraska, don't worry, it won't be here, and then check out what has happened since. We need to give these local monitoring committees the money and the enforcement powers to be out there on their own, separate from the DEC, doing the checking of these facilities. Again, I would reiterate, my personal experience with federal and state inspectors can be described only as very poor. These inspectors violated their duty time after time. We need to give the people of these communities the confidence in this process that has been lacking so far. We need to give them confidence in these local monitoring committees by giving them the money and the direction that, yes, indeed, you are...you have a real process, you are really involved in this process, that you will have a lot of say on what is right and what is wrong with the siting of this facility. Again, I would refer to the study, the plans that are proposed by Bechtel that as of right now there is no need or no call in that study for intensive studies right