

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, of course.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Senator Schmit, the Governor has said that the site would not be located without the community consent. What, in your opinion, is community consent?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Schellpeper, I am not responsible for what the Governor said. In my opinion, community consent depends upon a number of issues. The people in Boyd County obviously felt, back in November, that they ought not to vote for 402. To me, that is community consent. Now you can de...as I said earlier, you can lower it to the lowest common denominator if you wish but it was obvious to me, Senator Schellpeper, that the attitude of the community has been tempered, has been altered by certain attacks, certain intemperate remarks and I have taken a considerable amount of abuse, both personally and by telephone and by letter, from individuals who have also intimidated their neighbors to a point where people are afraid to state their point of view. I don't think that's community consent. That's intimidation and I think the people have a right to speak. They have a right to address the issues, but threats, intimidation and abuse should not be a factor and I very much regret that.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. I think I agree more with what Senator Kristensen said. I don't think that the vote on 402 really was a vote for the community consent. I think that was a vote to stay in the compact and that was what that vote meant. It did not mean it was going to be in that local community. I think that we should have probably two or three years ago put something into law that the people...that this site would not be located without the vote of the people and we tried to get that several years ago. I think the only fair way to have community consent is to have a vote of the people. That's the only fair way to do it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to take a moment to announce that Senator Weihing has 11 eighth graders, in our north balcony, visiting us this morning from Cedar Canyon School out in Gering, Nebraska, and their sponsor. Would you folks please stand and take a bow. Thank you. We're glad to have you come from that distance to be with us. Also, Senator Labeledz has 65 fourth and fifth graders from Robbins Elementary in Omaha visiting with us this morning and their teacher. Would