

will make every effort to prevent facility siting in our state. I would ask two questions. Has there been community consent? I don't think so. Second, has every effort been made to prevent facility siting in our state? I don't think so either. I don't think either of those assurances have been kept or either of those promises kept. If it is a good project; if, in fact, it will be safe and be located and monitored well, then it seems to me a particular community could have the right to vote and would approve it. I think it is totally misleading to say that the vote on Initiative 402 reflected...was a reflection of community consent. It reflected people's desire to remain in the compact. That's how it was perceived. All the assurances that were being given by the officials with US Ecology, with the people in the administration, were you will have community consent. Everybody understood that was the right to vote on the issue and I think the right to vote is the only way to solve it. I don't think there is going to...the right to vote, the democratic process is a particularly crucial one for our citizens. I don't think there is going to be intimidation of people going to the polls when they vote or abuse of people when they go to express their democratic views on this particular issue. Give those people a right to vote. Uphold the assurances and the promises that were made. Approve Senator Dierks' amendment. Allow the people of Nebraska and their local communities to consent to this location of this site in their area. That is all we're asking. If, in fact, the numbers quoted on the Initiative 402 vote on those counties is accurate and if that was truly a reflection of community consent, then there should be no fear of approving this amendment because if those people voted that way on 402, then by that logic they will vote in favor of the location of the site in their area. What are people afraid of as far as letting the local communities, the local counties have a right to vote before a nuclear waste site dump is located in their backyard? There are counties, I suspect, in Nebraska who would approve of the location. If, in fact, they have all the information, know all of the risks, know exactly what this whole project would entail, may very well support it. I think there are. What would really be a mistake, in my view, would be to allow US Ecology to site the nuclear waste dump in a particular county where the community is overwhelmingly opposed to that particular location. I don't think that's fair to the people of that community. I don't think it is fair to the people of our state to allow that to be done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator