

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: On the advancement of the bill. Call is raised. Senator Schmit, would you like to talk on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to thank all of those individuals who have participated in the debate this morning. I believe it is extremely helpful that we have had the kind of debate that we have had. It is unfortunate that we did not have more of this debate over the years as this issue was discussed. Had we been more involved perhaps we would not have had some of the acrimony and some of the heat that was generated here in the last year or two. I want to just say what I said on the motion to indefinitely postpone and that is that those individuals who feel very strongly, and I'm sure all of you do, about the issue of safety and the storage of low-level nuclear waste really ought to all support the advancement of the bill because the bill will provide additional protection, additional guarantees, additional considerations for those areas or that area, those individuals who will eventually be impacted by the storage of low-level waste. If, in fact, you feel that you can't vote for the bill, or that a vote for the bill expresses your dissatisfaction with the past actions of this Legislature, then that is your right to vote as you see fit. But remember that to vote that way does in fact limit some of the benefits that this bill provides to the host area. I want to say also that this is not the last bill that will address this issue. Regardless of what happens in the next few weeks, next month or two, next year, five years, this Legislature will be called upon from time to time, as the need arises, to address the issue. I just want to say that for those who would have voted for amendments that would have attempted to alter the language of the compact, this Legislature has no authority to alter the language of the compact. That compact language has the force of federal law. And I can understand and I sympathize with Senator Dierks on his amendment, but to have adopted Senator Dierks' amendment would have meant that those individuals who today feel they have very little voice in the location of the site would have, in fact, no voice at all. They would have abdicated that