

responsibility because then the compact would have come in and chosen the site, and that would have been it. I do not think we want to take that route. Remember, compact language, and we've discussed it a number of times on this floor, compact language is language which needs to be addressed by all the states involved, and we can only effectively adopt such language if all other four states adopt it. It would be an easy thing for this Legislature to have adopted a bill, passed a bill into law that provided for a local vote. But the local vote would have had no impact, the local vote would not have been binding upon either the company who is going to store the waste, going to construct the facility, nor upon the compact. It would have been unfair to the people of those communities to have provided a vote because all it would have done would have been to be a popularity situation, it would have been a vote which would have said 60 percent yes, 20 percent...40 percent no, or vice versa, it would not have been binding, would not have bound US Ecology, would not have any binding effect upon the State of Nebraska nor upon the compact, and therefore it would not have been fair to have tried to imply to the people of the area or the three host areas that such a vote would have any impact. If, in fact, we try to operate outside of the compact then, in fact, we do not operate at all. For those who have said that the vote on amendment 402 was a vote to remain in the compact, then I can only assume that a vote to remain in the compact means that we are willing to abide by the terms of the compact, because we know that we are at the point where those terms cannot be amended, unless it is done by all five states acting in consort. Certainly, at this point in time, we are too far down the road for that. For those who would say that we are not going to need this many sites in future, and that perhaps we ought not build the site, we ought to do something different, I want to say, invite Senator Morrissey, whose a member of this committee and a good one, that if the Congress, the Senate will introduce that sort of legislation that we do not need the sites that are already selected and the designations that have already been made, if the United States Senate will offer that kind of legislation, if they will pass it, the House will pass it, then I will be the first person on this floor to adopt the proposal and try to adapt a bill that would address that. But that has to emanate from Washington, not from this floor. We can express our dissatisfaction, we can stand up and make rhetorical speeches, we can speak for home consumption, or for the press, or for our own satisfaction, whichever we like. But the facts are that if this is going to be changed then it is not changed