

by the State of Nebraska adopting an amendment which says we're going to provide for local vote. We have to do it according to the rules. The rules have been laid down. There are those of you who were not here when we adopted those rules and when we adopted the statute which now binds us. But 46 members voted yes, no one voted no. I don't think that any of those members who voted yes, at that time, and I served with all of them, some of them for many years, did so in a manner which they thought was irresponsible. We acted based upon the best information available at that time. We will continue to do that in the future. The interests of the people of the State of Nebraska are first and foremost in the minds of myself, the committee and this Legislature and the Governor of this state. If, at any time, the Governor of this state, or this Legislature feels that we are not being dealt with fairly, I can assure you that we will work with other member states to rectify that problem. Nebraska has been sited as a state which should not have had the storage site, but we have two nuclear plants, other states did not have any. Could we expect justifiably that we not store the waste here at some time? I have had people tell me that we ought to have continued to store it in Nevada, that's a better place. Well, I've not seen the site in Nevada, but I've talked to citizens from Nevada who said why should we be the repository for the bulk of the low-level waste from all the various states. Why should we, just because we happen to have low rain fall and some other climatic factors which are favorable, be responsible for your waste? Responsibility for the environment rests with all of us, that is true with low-level waste, it's true with hazardous waste, it's true with solid waste, it's true with pesticides, herbicides, all the rest of it, air, water and soil. We'll have plenty of opportunity to show that responsibility in the years to come as we address those individual issues. I hope that we can continue to work together, as we have in the past, on this bill and on other issues that are important to all of us. Most of us on this floor have watched this thing develop over the years. It's been 17, 18, 19 years since we created the Department of Environmental Control. We've been criticized from time to time that that agency has not been active enough. I want to say it was one of the first created in the United States, and in my opinion it has acted with...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...good judgment and has acted on behalf of the people and acted well. I think we can commend those