

have had a year ago. So I applaud not only the members that have worked hard for years in this body on this legislation, but also the concerned citizens groups that have gone largely unheeded for a few years, and now finally are making their presence known that, yes, there are some concerns. These people also deserve a lot of credit. Because we did our best years ago, that's all the more reason we must do our best now and continue to be very watchful of the situation and move ahead in a responsible manner to get this siting done and do it with concern for our citizens in listening to their concerns, and I really think we're making steps in that direction. I would move for the advancement of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I hope to carve out for you what I think is a rational distinction that we need to make in the analysis of this bill as it goes forward in the legislative process. Ninety-three counties in the State of Nebraska. When the announcement was made where the last three sites were, the three counties that were under consideration, how many of you, like me, breathed a sigh of relief? How many of you, who had other counties, said whew, we dodged a bullet. Ninety counties probably said to themselves, thanks heavens it's not here. Three counties have to live with that result. Now the vote of the people in a county represents a veto that you can give to the locals. And that veto power is antithetical to our role in the compact. The body did wisely, I think, in not accepting it. But I tell you this, past the notion of a local veto, we should pay particular attention to the admonitions and suggestions to us from the representatives of those three counties, the ones who have to live with it. But I'm not talking about a veto status, like a vote, but I am talking about things like the kinds of studies they need to have, the kinds of people they need to have those studies made with, the kinds of means and resources they have to have available to them to do the work of making a place for this low-level radioactive waste dump site. Those three counties deserve the best from us, not just our turning away from them because we are not at risk, not saying well we dodged the bullet, so it doesn't make much of a difference what happens to you, we have to listen to them with their voice, not with our voice as to what we think is best for them, but from their voice, what they say is best for them from their perspective,