

Because the siting of such a facility will have impact and consequences far into the future, the impacts and consequences we cannot today describe with accuracy, the selection of a person to represent that municipality and its residents is very important. It is crucial. And it is at this point in our deliberations that we can bring some justice into a set of circumstances where, in my opinion, it has not always been present. There is nothing...I'm going to use an analogy. The Constitution allows a person charged with a crime to have legal representation of his or her choice. When you have a representative you must first believe that that individual knows enough to take care of your interests. You must trust that individual enough to believe that he or she will, in fact, take care of your interests. If this absence of trust is there, if there is a lack of confidence in the technical knowledge of the individual, if those things are not present, then the relationship is not what it needs to be. We all understand why I'm offering this amendment and we understand the set of circumstances it is designed to deal with. There is a community that has made a selection of an individual to represent their interests on this monitoring committee. There are issues that will need to be raised. There will be developmental argument and discussion that will go into formulating positions of this monitoring committee. If you have a lot of people who don't understand what is going on, who may sense that something is wrong and their interests are not being looked after, but they don't know enough to even describe the problem adequately, it's clear that those people do not have representation. They are there but they are not able to do the job that a representative is supposed to do. I don't think anybody on this floor would deny that those municipalities close to this facility do have interests that need to be protected. So, I don't see anything that is violative of any rule or principle of due process or representative government, I don't see any such principle that would be violated by allowing these people to select a person of their choice. When I had offered this amendment on General File, Senator Elmer raised the point of a nonresident of Nebraska being placed in a position to make a decision about or participate in the making of a decision that will affect Nebraska citizens and he found that to be repugnant. I didn't have an opportunity to speak after he made his observation but it is because nonresidents of Nebraska made a decision that affect this state that has us here today. There are people from other states who made a decision that a certain act is to take place in Nebraska, those people who made that decision don't