

whistleblower is a position that is hard to take. It's someone that stands up against a big corporation for the individuals and I think his reputation is known and it is not an easy position to take and they went from there and established a dialogue with him.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Weihing, Schmit and Dierks.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Schmit asked a question that I think is fair and I ought to answer, why wouldn't I strike the word "local" from in front of the term "monitoring committee"? It's simple. The monitoring committee should represent the will of the local people. It would be wrong for the Legislature, as an outside force, to impose its will on the local people who are going to be affected by the siting of this facility. But in granting to the local people some control of their affairs, we have to grant them that which is most essential to local determination and that is the power to make a decision. If we remove from them the power to make a decision, then the word "local" is really a hollow hoax, it is a sham and it is a misrepresentation of what this bill seeks to do. I'm almost envious of this man because he will be only one out of nine, and to see such fear expressed, such awe, such stature accorded an individual is the kind of thing and the kind of position I would like to occupy. It's a situation where one person with one vote is not going to outvote everybody else. We have seen on the floor of this Legislature in a number of instances that sometimes a single legislator might serve the role only of raising issues that others will not broach. That is necessary when you have a body that is supposed to weigh, evaluate and make judgments. You want people to bring information. We don't want to put a gag on the mouth of the local community. We don't want to put blinders on their eyes. We do not want to stop their ears. The purpose of this Legislature should be to bring as much information and expertise to that decision-making process as possible. Those who are most intimately affected are the ones who ought to be able to make a decision and have a choice. The Legislature should not deny them that right. So, Senator Schmit, I want the local monitoring committees to have local input, and you used the word "input". That means allow the local people to have something of substance to say in the determination of their own fate. They