

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. I originally had my light on and I was going to call the question because I felt that probably there had been enough debate on this amendment and that people pretty much had their minds made up on this issue, and that talking for another hour was not going to change anybody's mind. However, since we have just begun discussion on this amendment, I want to take advantage of the opportunity to say something because perhaps Senator Landis has given a suggestion here that parties might be able to agree to. Earlier speakers mentioned, I think, in fact, it was Senator Landis mentioned the two houses, and how people are so divided on this issue. This might possibly be the way to bring it together. You know, Senator Schmit, there are a lot of reasonable and logical reasons for not allowing a vote on this issue. There are a lot of reasonable and logical reasons for not allowing our children to learn to drive, I suppose, but there are also a lot of very reasonable and logical reasons for allowing a vote on this issue, for allowing our children to drive a car, and I don't mean that in a paternalistic way at all to compare those two things. I don't think that a vote is just another way of spelling "veto". I think a vote is our most precious and prized possession, and what has concerned me about this whole discussion is that people are not being allowed a vote on their own destiny. I know we have a representative government, and I know that we are paid to be those representatives and make those decisions, but this issue is so hot, so volatile, so divisive, that I worry that the wounds in these communities will never heal unless the people do have this right to vote, and I have a real sincere trust in the people. I think that, if given the right to make that decision, that they will do it in a very responsible manner, and I think they, as with the proposition that was on the ballot earlier, will make a good decision. Senator Landis's amendment allows some flexibility. It allows the counties to vote. It allows people to make a decision, and, yet, it says in the end that we will have a site, and I think that is what many of us are concerned about. We know that we have entered into a compact that we need to honor. So, hopefully, out of this process, if we could adopt Senator Landis's amendment, we would have a process by which we could get a yes vote, and I have had one of the senators tell me that if a vote is taken in his area, he thinks that it will get a positive vote, and I would not be surprised but what that would happen in other areas also. Senators, please consider the amendment to the amendment. Even if you were going to vote