

binding upon the US Ecology or the Department of Environmental Control concerning the installation. The vote is a mere expression or a mere way to determine whether or not there is community consent. So we avoid the argument that we don't want to give the voters in a particular county the veto power. It is not the veto power. It is a nonbinding type of vote, it is a discretionary type of vote on behalf of the county, and it can only take place if the county board decides that they would like to hold a special election, and then the special election results, whether it's approval or disapproval, can be used as an expression of community consent, because it seems to me that the people in these counties have been promised, by lots of people, lots of representatives, that their views will be considered before a nuclear waste site dump is located in their county. This is a way to make good on that promise. This is a way to, for a number of people, to be able to keep their words, keep their word, I should say, when they made the assurance that community consent would be considered. I think it's an appropriate amendment, and I think that some of the people that voted no on the original right to vote, because it was mandatory, or because it gave the veto power will, hopefully, support it. And I would urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. We've talked about the right to vote a good deal. This goes a different step. I've always had the position on this issue that the state should find the site, put it there through eminent domain and not have the pressure on the local citizens, the local county boards. It merely pits neighbor against neighbor, town against country, county against county. This really abandons our responsibility that we're trying to deal with by putting the pressure back on those local boards that have had too much pressure already. The additional expense of this, for that local county when the vote really doesn't mean anything, is unnecessary. I'd urge you all to vote no on this proposed amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Call the question.