

March 5, 1990

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I've heard various testimonies from many, many people on the issues of low-level radioactive waste disposal site to be located in Nebraska. Nebraska has a very responsible position to hold over the next 30 years on this issue. We need the very best people we can possibly get to represent Nebraska's interests. Those people have to be founded in scientific fact, be founded in good education in the law and have the interests of Nebraska at heart. I feel this appointment fills every one of those very important qualities. Dr. Thorson deserves to be confirmed and should be our representative as the Chairman of the compact commission. We can do no better. I know in the eyes of some individuals out there who are adamantly opposed to Nebraska being the site for a low-level radioactive waste disposal, that people with qualifications based in scientific fact will be unanimously rejected, and anyone else that would be appointed with this man's qualifications would also have the ill will of those people who would destroy our siting process. I urge you, as members of this Legislature, to act responsibly, keep in mind the facts of the case and confirm this important appointment that our Governor has made. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to the confirmation of Norm Thorson as our representative on the compact commission and I must say, first of all, I am not and never have been adamantly opposed to responsibly handling our wastes in Nebraska. As a matter of fact, in the last month or so, two months, I've been working pretty hard to make sure everything is done and is being done that could preclude the possibility of a license being denied when a facility is up and running, and in my attempts to do that I have constantly been battling US Ecology, the Department of Environmental Control and the compact commission and it all hinges on disagreement of the way things are written and the way things are interpreted. But I have never once in over a year been invited to sit down and discuss this issue and get all these discrepancies hammered out. Over a year ago I brought up questions on the compact contract with US Ecology and the profitability for US Ecology. I sent a copy of a contract to the University of Nebraska and asked them to give it to their most qualified person at the university to review and give recommendations. They sent it to a professor who teaches