

February 25, 1991 LB 67

think that we will be placing another impediment in the amendment without sufficient criteria, because when you say, if it's a threat to people, that means...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...if any person, local, state, national, complains about someone's landfill, then the DEC must act. I do not want to place that kind of burden upon them. I know that Senator Beutler has good intentions. If he had a little more time he could do better.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We'll now go to Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise this morning with, as I mentioned in my opening remarks on the committee amendments, with a certain amount of doubt in the committee amendments. I now have very little interest in this bill as written. Under the adoption of the Lamb amendment you basically have kept in existence two standards, one of licensure for those facilities that are being operated by our larger communities, and under the Lamb amendment you said status quo for all of those landfills out there that are still unlicensed but are causing no contamination to the groundwater. Tomorrow I will offer an amendment that will basically say, if there's no public policy good in licensing facilities in this state, then we just as well do away with any licensing standards for all landfills, and basically go with the Lamb amendment. Say, if that landfill doesn't cause any contamination, then it shouldn't have to be licensed, whether it's Omaha, Nebraska, or whether it's Bellwood, Nebraska, because in effect you have done nothing under LB 67. And I guess I'd say the same thing, if there's no water contamination coming out of low-level nuclear waste siting, then we just as well not have any standards for that either, because the same argument we're using here today could be used for that, could be used for the hazardous waste site that is being proposed in Kimball. What I'm saying to you folks is what you've done is basically take away the gist of the bill, which was to put everybody in equal standing in this state to do something. And what you've done, effectively, is, under the Lamb amendment, that I see, is said let's leave status quo alone. Senator Lamb knows nothing will be done now that the amendment has been adopted, and that's exactly what he wanted. And I think the same could be said for Senator Schmit's opinion.