

raised, is it apropos to raise this question today or this year? In light of variety of events that are taking place and in light of the fact this has been testified to us, the chances of a submittal for licensure may not come till next year, but nonetheless at some point, whether it's today, whether it's next year, whether it's two years, some point the State of Nebraska must, under federal law and in our statutes, take title to the property. Now someone has asked me before, how much does that cost us? Well, US Ecology now has exercised this option on the land and will own the land and they will then, through gift, provide a land title to the State of Nebraska. And, to read directly from federal law, it says, where the proposed disposal site is on land not owned by the federal or state government, the applicant must submit evidence that arrangements have been made for assumption of ownership in fee by the federal or state government before the commission issues a license. I guess I can't really give you good, strong arguments as far as whether today is the best time, or tomorrow, or two, or 10 years from now as to when we should take title to the property. But I think it is facing reality that we have to address this issue at some point. And I have also been asked the question, what if the Boyd County site is not licensable because of other geological reasons and environmental reasons? And we have this language already in our statutes. Well, obviously, what will happen is that we will introduce a bill to amend this statute to the next site that potentially will be selected in Nebraska to assume title at that point. So I guess the need for the bill is...the reality of the situation is that it is possible that we will be in session when the license is submitted but the chances are likely as well that we will not be in session and that until such time no license can be granted. And so we would have to be in session either through special session or regular session to pass legislation like this. And I think we are simply recognizing that at some point we're going to have to do this and we're attempting to expedite that process. I understand the concerns that others have about this whole process, but nonetheless it's recognizing federal and state law.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Senator Johnson talked about the cost and I would just like to talk about that a little bit. I would like to dwell on the cost. Currently, the land that was under consideration in Boyd County has been purchased, or the purchase price has been offered as