

compact has got to be one tough person to represent Nebraska's interest. There are still a lot of questions that the generators are asking, that we're asking, that the public is going to ask on why the system broke down, why nobody was watching the Executive Director. And I don't have the answer for that. I don't know who the blame belongs to. But regardless of who the blame belongs to, we have to do what we have been obligated to or charged to do within the compact. Unless we leave the compact, unless we decide to go on our own or try and join another compact, we still have the commitments to our compact. This amendment that Senator Morrissey has offered is one that I cannot support. As I said, I will not support this one or the next two. I will support his last amendment. As I see it, what Senator Morrissey's amendment does is add a great deal of additional cost to the process. As I read his amendment, that means that we have to do a sociocultural characterization of all three sites. That may cost the DEC anywhere from...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...100 to 150,000 additional dollars to do those sites, to do that site characterization. Because of that, I guess I'm going to oppose this amendment. If we want to talk about the Ray Peery situation, we can talk till we're blue in the face about it. It's over, it's done with and right now the most important thing to do, as I have told the press from the time the story broke, is to get back to doing what we have to do and, more importantly, finding somebody or a group of people to go in and restore the confidence of the public in this whole process. And I'm hoping the Governor and the compact and this Legislature will do that because this is a very important issue and a very controversial one and things haven't been improved, by any means, by Mr. Peery's recent indiscretion. So I... I guess, I would simply ask the body to reject this particular amendment and we'll move on with this bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Owen Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief. I agree a hundred percent with the statements that have been made by Senator Johnson. In reading the amendment that is proposed by Senator Morrissey, I see nothing in there that is going to make the site safer or to guarantee any...anything