

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Abboud.

**SENATOR ABBOUD:** Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support Senator Morrissey's amendment. I tell you, sometimes timing is everything in politics, and timing is everything in legislation. And I really have to sympathize with the supporters of this bill, because timing certainly is not on their side in this particular issue. And a lot of these issues that we're discussing would have been discussed anyway. But the entire backdrop just doesn't...just doesn't look good for the supporters of the bill. And I think credibility is probably the biggest problem. One of the issues that we have to deal with, and I have an amendment that is coming up later to deal with this particular issue, but this kind of...this particular amendment falls in line with the entire concept of it, is that if an individual constructs this low-level waste site system, Bechtel, they construct this waste site, can they just walk away after that system is constructed? And it's an unfortunate situation, but the way our statutes are written they can essentially walk away with no liability. Now the period that we have to worry about is about a ten year period. But it could very easily happen where a lot of the problems with that facility could be 10, 20, 30, 40 years down the road when that cement starts to crack, and some of that stuff may leak into our ground water system. And the question is then who is responsible for this tragedy that will befall the individuals that live in this area. I have always felt that the one safeguard this state has in this entire low-level waste site controversy is our liability laws. If we don't have decent liability laws on the books when this thing is constructed, we're going to be in big, big trouble. Now Senator Morrissey's amendment focuses in on some of the liability questions, the so...so...sociocultural characteristics involved in the construction site, the individuals that are living in the area. If we want to build this waste site here, and we have an obligation to build that waste site, and we became a part of that compact with open eyes, we walked in, we said, we have a problem in this country and in this state that we have to deal with waste facilities from nuclear reactors, from hospitals, from other areas that generate this waste, and we have to dispose of it. And those three states that are taking the waste no longer want to, they force...basically forced Congress into changing the law, establishing these compacts throughout the nation, we have to deal with it. Let's make our laws as tough