

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, my comments will be brief. I believe this is the second amendment of a package of amendments that Senator Morrissey offered earlier. As I indicated the other day, I indicated this morning, or this afternoon I should say, it seems like this morning, I opposed this particular amendment. I don't think it is necessary at this time and would urge the body to reject the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this amendment? Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Johnson, would answer a question, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: It...this amendment allows participation by the monitoring committees in site characterization and selection process. That's almost the whole ball of wax. If, indeed, you're not trying to restrict the monitoring committee's input, how can you not support this?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, to be honest with you, I've tried to be open-minded as to how we're going to proceed with this, and I'm not trying to shut off what they can or cannot do. At this time, I'm just not comfortable with what you're amendment, how it reads or what it may do, and that was the major reason why I'm opposing the bill.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: This amendment has been, colleagues, out for about six days. I'm sorry if you all haven't had a chance to read it. If you haven't, I'll tell you what it does, but you must listen. It gives the committees the power they have always had to review the site characterization and selection process. What is that? That's dang near the whole ball of wax, isn't it? Site review and characterization, that's environmental reports, sociocultural, socioeconomic stuff. That's what the monitoring committees are for and if you don't support this, let's just take this charade away and say we really don't give a hoot whether the citizens have any input at all. Come on now. Now