

community consent, we're talking about the community meaning the county and this was defined by the Citizens Action Committee of...that was set up by US Ecology. It was their own definition that the county should be the preferred site...the preferred site for the vote and we clarified that yesterday with an amendment that says that Boyd County will be the county where the voting takes place. I only ask that you support the legislation as a responsibility to compact agreements, to agreements that were made by Governor Orr at that time and to satisfy the needs of my constituency. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. I will recognize Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Horgan. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President. Members, it's been a very tough issue for a lot of us to deal with it because it does impact the lives of a number of people, not just the people in Boyd County but the people of Nebraska and four other states. I guess I've been asked why I do not support LB 72 and I have said repeatedly that the issue is very ambiguous, to start with. What is community and what is consent? Is consent a vote? Or is it approval of this Legislature? Is it approval of the county board or the city council or a village council? No one is for sure what that means, although everyone, I assume, if you ask five people, they give you five different opinions on what consent means and what community means. Regardless of that fact, the reason that I do not support 72 is largely because I would prefer, personally speaking, to see the site either succeed or fail on its technical merits, on the site characterizations, on the development of the facility by the contractor or the site developer, which is US Ecology, allow our technical people to decide at the Department of Health, at the Department of Environmental Control whether or not, one, the site is licensable, number two, whether the design structure and the proposal by US Ecology to build this facility in Boyd County is safe to the citizens who must live around it and is responsible to the compact needs. That is where I come down on this issue. I also come down on the issue of what Senator Beutler talked about yesterday. Is providing a vote, regardless of what the issue might be, when you're dealing with any public use project, providing a popular vote is probably bad public policy because there are a lot of things in this state which would have never been built, which will never be built if we start down this path. And I do not know, as I said yesterday on