

followed by Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President. I would rise in support of Senator Dierks' bill, LB 72. Governor Nelson has said, I think, numerous times that a promise not kept is a promise broken and that, indeed, we have continually told the people in the beginning stages of this process that there would be community consent. If we now, as a Legislature, can't determine what community consent is, we should have never agreed to do it and I know, Senator Elmer, that this Legislature has never agreed to it but we did agree to community consent but we never agreed to what it was. I think that the...I believe that the facility is probably safe and is probably not a danger and the two nuclear facility generating facilities that sit on the Missouri River are probably more dangerous and hazardous to the health of the citizens of the State of Nebraska than this facility would be. But I am concerned about the history of this project. I'm concerned that we've spent...that \$30 million has been spent and we really don't know what on, that we haven't really turned a blade of dirt and, indeed, that there are some people involved in this project that appear not to have the best interests of the citizens of Nebraska at heart. And I think it's only proper and appropriate that this Legislature stand up and say that elected officials have continually talked about community consent. Senator Schellpeper, in 1988, tried to determine what community consent was and this Legislature backed away from it and made it so nebulous and uncertain that you couldn't determine what it was. We have an opportunity in LB 72 to say, we know what community consent is and in this instance it's within the county boundaries. It may be very well, it may be bad public policy to call for a vote of the people on a project like this or because it does open it up to other projects that will be controversial. But that's not the fault of the people of the State of Nebraska. That's the fault of our elected officials. And for us agreeing to be in a compact and part of the compact agreement was that there would be community consent. It's now time for us to stand up and say what community consent is. If it's a statewide vote of the people, then amend the bill and let it be a statewide vote of the people. If it's a vote of all the states in the compact, then let's determine that's what it is. But we have continually talked about for years and years and years that there would be community consent and every time it comes to the floor we back away from it and say, well, we can't determine what community consent is, but we sure promise it to you. You can have