

is throughout this process. Very obviously, there was a transfer of liability from the profit-making corporations to the citizens of Nebraska. We are now making an effort to eliminate some of those or renewing our effort to eliminate some of those. By striking the language to not take title to the waste, I would hope thus the liability will then be focused on the facility operator and the generators, and that's where it should be. That's where it should be, because by transferring the liability to the citizens these power companies didn't have to show the cost of cleanup in the ultimate liability of nuclear waste in their power bills. They could avoid that and thus they could continue to claim that nuclear power is so clean and so...is clean and cheap, barely would register on your meter. So this is an important factor. We need to realize that there are a lot of hidden costs, including federal government subsidies have a lot of their insurance policies in the nuclear power industry. This was another way of transferring the liability and hiding those costs. Now I'm not out here saying I'm against nuclear power. I'm just saying, let's take an open look at it and look at the true costs of everything involved. So let's eliminate the liability of the citizens by striking my language. Let's eliminate the further liability that we had, obviously have had and have had since the process started, that the department shall not approve any application unless it's on land owned by the state or federal government. Let's do that now. If the feds want to own it, that's fine. And I'm sure the power companies would go for that too. But we don't need to own it, folks. We do not need to accept that responsibility. I did have one handout that's on your desk that reinforces what I talked about that once the facility is closed and buried under tons of dirt, that whoever owns that property owns the liability because that waste is not removable. And also, I didn't bracket that but that's in the article. But on the right-hand side you will see where Paul Lohoss (phonetic), I bracketed that, chief of the NRC's Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning Division, helped draft part of the NRC regulations on waste sites. Mr. Lohoss (phonetic) states, though it's not explicitly stated in the regulations, it's a long-standing understanding that the states take ownership. And he said the regulations do make clear that states own the waste sites after they're closed. Now, we don't need to enforce a long-standing understanding, something that's not in rule and reg or law. Now the question that we do take ownership, once the sites are closed, are very unclear also and also open to interpretation in federal law. So strike the language I propose. Strike the language Senator