

statutes biodegradable, degradable, photodegradable and recyclable in our state statutes. We have no language in our statutes that deal with compostable or composting. This bill adds language to the statutes to include the definition of compostable and composting and it is also adding or recognizing that the marketplace is not only moving in the area of biodegradable products such as biodegradable diapers but also compostable diapers. Procter and Gamble, which is one of the major producers of disposable diapers in this country, is undertaking a multimillion dollar effort, study, research project to begin developing compostable diapers that could be composted and put back into our environment in a safe manner and that can be used again and again by the environment. So this bill recognizes that changing technology and recognizes that in the marketplace there will be, hopefully, in the very near future diapers that can be also composted as well as being biodegradable. It is my hope that this body will accept this compromise that's been worked out between the various parties involved. The question has been raised, what is the necessity of passing this bill this year or taking it up at this time? Obviously, as the study is being undertaken by the DEC, it is important, I think, that they take a look or add into the component of their study the issue of composting or compostable diapers as well and that would allow, hopefully, the department to include in their study the issue of compostable diapers. The question that's going to be raised at some point, I'm sure, in this debate is how...how are diapers composted? Well, it's a lengthy process but...and does require plants in order to do this. Nebraska currently does not have a composting plant in the state. There are only something like 14 or 15 composting plants in the country at this time. However, there is something close to 35 to 40 plants, including three that are on the project either being under construction or being proposed in Iowa, for example, one in Council Bluffs, as a matter of fact. So I think people...our communities are recognizing the fact that composting is going to be a big part of the whole waste stream and reduction of the waste stream and that they are moving to meet that new challenge and recognizing that major companies like Procter and Gamble and others are beginning to develop products that will be more environmentally safe and will be, hopefully, easier to return to the environment in a way that can be reused by people and the environment in a safe constructive manner. And so in recognizing that changing technology, we also would like to recognize the contents of this bill. So I would move the committee amendments, first of all,