

different circumstances in order to degrade, water, sunlight, whatever, and many times these products are buried in the landfill and just entombed there and do not break down. And that's, I think, some of the hesitancy that Senator Morrissey touched on in his earlier comments. So there are problems, I imagine, with all of these types of products at this point but I think this is one, at least, that we should include in the study and, obviously, we're hoping at some point in this state that, as composting becomes a bigger component...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...into the whole waste stream issue in Nebraska, that plants will be built. But by mandating legislatively what the marketplace will provide to the public, I think, is wrong but we've done it, at least in this one case through LB 325, and if we're going to do it for that particular product because of biodegradability, I think we should also look at the issue of composting. And so, from my perspective, I am not going to support Senator Ashford's amendment. I don't think he is on the wrong track, by any means, but it confuses the issue of what we're attempting to accomplish, I think, in 669 which is to plug this component into the DEC study as they...as they work on that study.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. The next speaker is Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Members of the body, as I understand Senator Ashford's amendment, I am going to be supportive of it. Senator Ashford, just to make sure that I understand how all of this fits in. What you're saying, in effect, is diapers can be sold in Nebraska if they're compostable, provided there is someplace to compost those diapers. It's one of those amendments that seems to make so much sense that it probably won't get adopted but it makes a tremendous amount of sense, I think. Going back in history, Senator Hefner and others brought in a bill a few years ago because there was a concern that lots of disposable diapers were going into landfills that were being disposed and that there...and that they were there forever. They were made out of the plastic material that did not...did not degrade and they're a potential pollutant forever. So the supporters of the bill came in and got a bill passed that said you can't sell diapers, disposable diapers in Nebraska, unless they are degradable, unless they can break down on their own. And the