

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Ashford, would you again give me the provisions of your amendment?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, what the bill now says is that if these diapers may be compostable, they may be sold in Nebraska after 1993. It doesn't say shall be, it says may be. What I have said in the amendment is rather than shall be, I could have put shall be, I've said may be compostable provided there is a facility located in Nebraska to do the composting. So the idea if they can't be...the idea is that they...if they're making the representation that they can be compostable, that doesn't do us much good if they can't be composted and that there ought to be...and that's the representation that's going to be made if these are compostable diapers that the public is going to feel somehow that that makes them better but, in fact, it doesn't do anything because they will just go into the landfills. It will cost the municipalities and subdivisions to pay for that. That's my problem. That's why the amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, I would just speak to the concern that I have about the fact that I think that we're behind times in many of our environmental issues in Nebraska and we seem to have a real hard time getting people to get up to speed to do anything about the concerns that we have. I can give you an example of the fact that we had a business in Hastings that made...and I said this in Natural Resources Committee last summer, we did a study and I will talk about that on the bill itself a little bit later. But the thing of Hastings was provided with a proposal by a business that wanted to put in place a composting operation. And one of the things that we should all be aware of here, Senator Ashford, is that when you're talking about the diapers themselves, they only make up less than 7 percent of the bulk of what goes into the landfills at this point in time. And so what you're talking about here is that so they become...you don't know whether or not...if they're compostable that if there's not a facility, they're going to go into the dump, you might want to call it, but keeping in mind that that is not the biggest concern. The other concern more than that is like yard waste and things like that. But the City of Hastings has been looking at this issue for a number of months and they have now turned it down. So...and this is what we find throughout the state. The people of the State of Nebraska, the villages, the towns, have not themselves reached a point where they're ready to tackle this problem and so that's a different issue, I almost