

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Withem.

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I know this is the time of year when nerves are a little frayed anyway and people get a little agitated over things that you maybe think they shouldn't be agitated over. I'm beginning to get a little agitated concerning this bill because I think that it is a ruse, a sham, a charade. In essence, what this bill does is it repeals what Senator Hefner got passed a few years ago because, as I read this, as soon as this passes the diaper companies will be able to get a big stamp put on their diapers that these are compostable and then they'll be able to continue to sell them. They won't have to claim that they're biodegradable and meet that standard. They'll simply say this is a compostable product and life will go on as it has in the past. Frankly, I wasn't all that excited about Senator Hefner's bill in the first place because I question how many of these diapers, when they get into landfills, actually become degradable. But the direction we need to go is in the area of dealing with our solid waste problem. You're probably right, Senator Smith, it's 7 percent, no big deal, that we need to deal with. We need to deal with lawn clippings, is our biggest problem up in Omaha, and I have a little compost heap in my backyard that smells like crazy and the neighbors would like to shoot me for it probably, but that's the kind of stuff we need to do. This diaper thing is something we're going to have to deal with, but to pass a bill that all it says is we're going to create some new standard that we don't know what it is, stamp that on the product and then we can go ahead and sell them, that's repealing what Senator Hefner wanted to do and I get a little agitated when I realize that we are about to be had as a body. I have an amendment that's going to follow Senator Ashford's, if it's not adopted, that will be up-front and say we are going to repeal, we are going to repeal the bill that was passed before. In that way, Procter and Gamble and other people can get what they want, but they'll get it up-front as opposed to this ruse and this sham and this charade. Senator Ashford, I think, adds a degree of standard to it that we at least have to have progressed further than we are in this whole area of composting, you know, before we're going to implement this standard. I think it's a good one. I think...I had suggested to Senator Pirsch, I think I understood her concern is one why does a facility have to be physically located in Nebraska, and I think if it's readily accessible to Nebraskans is probably the standard and I'd suggested to her