

Beutler, who work most closely with this issue and they are a lot more expert than I am. But I brought this amendment because I was deeply concerned about what was really going to happen if we adopted the amendment. There has been some mention of a study, and I...it's my understanding that Procter and Gamble is involved in a study in this area. I would suggest to you that if we adopt this amendment without my...the committee amendments without my amendment, as was suggested by Senator Withem, what you're going to have is, simply put, is a diaper product that is going to be marked as compostable that will not and cannot be compostable, basically. It can be compostable at some far away place or at some far away time possibly, but it is not going to be a compostable product. It does not alleviate the problem of the...that Senator Smith rightly talked about which is the communities' problem with their individual dumps. I don't see why at this point we can't wait until the study is completed, until we know what our ability to compost really is, and then pass a piece of legislation that reflects that. I have a lot of faith in Senator Johnson's ability to come up with something in that regard. The point of fact is that grass clippings are more easily compostable certainly than diapers. The major component of disposable diapers is cellulose. That is compostable. However, the plastic part of that diaper must be extracted before the composting process can be completed. There are eight municipal solid waste composting plants in the country. There may be some additional private ones. The point of fact is, ladies and gentlemen, is if we pass this bill, we are, in effect, what Senator Withem is saying, at this point in time we are repealing all of the good work that Senator Hefner did a couple of years ago that...and brought a bill that, quite frankly, was kind of hard to understand at first, was complex, was getting into a new area, that the body passed, and now we're saying, Senator Hefner, forget your bill; we're going to allow these people to come on in and claim that they have compostable products and we're going to allow them then to market these diapers, whether or not they're biodegradable, whether...and they may have a little corn in them and they may not. I don't know, but...corn starch. But the point is this is a big issue in our state, the issue of recycling and solid waste. I have faith in Senator Johnson and in Senator Morrissey and others, and Senator Beutler, who have a lot more expertise than I do in the area of the environment to work these things out, but it just makes absolutely no sense to me that we would give license to these companies to come in and do, to make these claims when...and people are going to think, my gosh, I bought this