

him bring it again next year. The bill without the committee amendments, I don't know if I can even remember what it was like, but the committee amendments become the bill and, in my opinion, they completely submerge the biodegradable bill and the intent. Now maybe that's good. Maybe biodegradable isn't an answer. Maybe it's not an option. They're studying it and they still have to get to the stage of biodegradability. We won't know. The study won't be done. It hasn't been funded. But right now my contention is the plastics industry can claim anything they want, as Senator Johnson said, is compostable, and the existing product under this definition can be defined as compostable. There's nothing in here that prevents it, although they said "no" during committee hearing when I tried to pin them down. They kept denying that fact. They would say yes, physical degradation means tearing into little pieces and, thus, I said you're product, as it presently exists, would fit that definition. They'd say, well, no, no, not...it doesn't fit humus-like or soil-like or dirt-like, but there's nothing in here that talks about that or defines what that is. What is it? To me, it's that little pile of stuff their holding in their deceptive ad in the Reader's Digest or any magazine you want to look at. It's got some dirt and sticks and little tiny pieces of plastic looking stuff in there. Now, is that good or bad? I don't know. All I can say is if the corn people become worried about it next year, I'm sorry, I'm not going to help, and I must say I'm just fairly disgusted right now with the time this bill took. I'd urge you to oppose it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I'd like to quiz Senator Ashford concerning his amendment just a second if I could.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford, would you respond, please?

SENATOR WITHEM: Now let me give you my characterization of the bill and how I think your amendment impacts upon it, and then I have a question for you. We have a bill that, as the original committee amendment and the original bill I think would have allowed, as Senator Morrissey I think has demonstrated to us, would have allowed the companies to stamp the word "compostable" on their product and market their existing product. Now, as I understand your amendment, they cannot do that until such time as there is a facility located in Nebraska that will compost this material. How do...is that right?