

help us adopt that amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Morrissey, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Now if you want to talk liability here, we're talking liability. You want to talk money that might cost us in the future, here's the time to ask the questions, and this amendment is good. The Department of Health and Department of Environmental Control have licensing authority on this facility. We are in a situation where they are under agreement with the NRC that they have joint licensing authority. There's always been a question of enough staffing on both departments, that's been a question for three or four years. NRC commissioner in town the other day said he's comfortable with that now, that he's comfortable with the licensing agreement, or the temporary agreement we have among the folks for licensing the facility under both agencies. So that's good. Unfortunately, that same commissioner is a little confused or at odds with his own staff. Now I must explain the commissioner is a bureaucrat, and the staff are the legal people. In other words, the committee chair versus the committee's legal counsel. And in interpreting the laws, the commissioner is at odds with the legal counsel of the NRC. Legal counsel seems to think that it's a question as to who owns the site and the materials at the end. The commissioner said it was very clear in federal regs that the state would. Well, he's wrong, in my opinion, and in his own legal counsel's opinion, he's very wrong on that. So I don't know where...how far to go on his word. But that is also a problem in this process, and that is the fact that from the NRC to the DOE, the DEC, the EPA, the Department of Health, they're having a lot of trouble understanding what the other folks are doing. Now if you have concerns about money and liability, there is a lot of questions to be asked there, so let's be asking the questions, let's be asking the questions. If you're concerned about mixed waste in our facility, and how the volumes of mixed waste in this country have remained stable in the past few years, there's a good question to ask. In other words, the reported volumes of mixed waste, radioactive and hazardous, have remained stable in this country for the last few years. So what's happening? Are we not reporting correctly? Are we not producing? Are we...or are we illegally disposing? Indications from Louisiana might be that we are illegally disposing, through incineration of mixed waste. But our facility is designed to hold mixed waste. The