

SENATOR ASHFORD: All right, I'll waive.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam Chair, really the issue here is after the construction of this facility, which we've spent a great deal of time discussing, will the individual that constructs the facility be able to walk away as a result of shoddy construction. Now if this facility is, as the proponents of the low-level waste site facility have claimed from the beginning, a piece of excellent construction, a structure which will not leak radiation waste into our groundwater, a facility that will not cause damage to individuals living...surrounding the low-level waste site facility, then there really should not be any question that liability should extend beyond the 10-year limitation that we have applied to our current laws. And for that reason, I'm rather shocked and surprised that the proponents of this facility would somehow challenge the liability issue. If there is no problem with the facility, if we will not have problems, then there shouldn't be any fear on their part that liability may extend beyond the 10-year period. Now, why is this really important? I think it's important because if there is some problems, let's say 30 years from now with some leakage, who will be responsible for that facility? Shouldn't the builder, the individual that constructed the low-level waste site facility share some of the blame, since they were the ones that constructed it negligently? I think that's important. And I think that the compact and the State of Nebraska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Kansas, maybe they should share some of the blame, but there should be some ability to go back to the individual that negligently constructed the facility. And that's really what the amendment is all about. Now there may be some detractors that say, well, if there are problems with that facility, then the State of Nebraska should pay 100 percent of the cost along with the other four states of the compact. But I don't share that facility, and that comes from experience that I have had serving in the Legislature. You might recall, a few years ago, when the University of Nebraska Pharmacy College had a facility that was constructed in a manner that was lacking. And, as a result of that facility, that facility started to fall apart. And so they went back to the builder and said, well, we'd like you to compensate it, and they did that in the manner of a lawsuit, and they said...they said, we'd like to pay you back, the court said that would be a great idea, there were clearly some problems with the construction of