

Plains. I just think that we have a real fine deal here. It's something that will provide us a plus rather than a minus, and I think that it's something we really need to take a look at. I'm sure supportive of this amendment and I hope that you will be too. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, it may be in the end that this project is something that we need to do and I have no doubt that there would be some benefit in the northern part of the state, at least in presenting them with some alternatives. However, I think that to put this kind of money into the budget at this point in time is premature. As I understand the way this process is supposed to proceed, and, Senator Wickersham, you can correct me, I don't want to misrepresent anything, but the Revitalization Council is supposed to do a plan and have an actual business plan in place on this kind of a project. There are a number of factors set out in the statute that they're to look at and make...and reach some conclusions with regard to including job creation, maintenance cost, economic return to the state, creation of maintenance of markets, a whole list of factors that are important to look at, I think. And then there's to be a business plan that describes the project, that describes the management from our low-level nuclear waste experience. We know how important the management is to a particular operation, a proposed operating plan and a statement of the amount, timing and projected use of the capital required. All of these things, in a very definite, specified way, I think, have not been done at this particular point in time. I believe the negotiations are still in process. I have not heard anything from the executive branch with regard to any definite idea they have about the amount of capital they want the State of Nebraska to put in or not put in, or what they think is a fair plan or proposition. I think it does not make sense for us, at this point in time, to commit a total of \$19 million, as I understand it, to a project that is ill-defined and maybe not even possible. In any event, as I read the handout from Senator Wickersham, it's even more serious in the sense that the \$5 million here, and the \$12 million, as I understand it, from the Reserve Fund, the way this is designed right now doesn't come back to us. Only about \$11 million comes back to us. The rest remains a subsidy to the new operators of the company, if I'm reading this sheet right, and, Senator Wickersham, you can