

where we are going to be putting a site out on the perimeter of a particular county with the population center of the county that voted at great distance, and maybe the population center of a contiguous county who could be very close. And I think this amendment, if, in fact, one is truly serious about community consent addressing the people who are affected, makes considerably more sense than LB 72, which by virtue of the way that it is written using a county where, in fact, most counties have population centers, and obviously the population center in most of our counties is going to be somewhat removed from where the site would be. In many cases, we may be superimposing that site over into a much more populated area that belongs to another county. And so I say, if, in fact, we are serious about what the intent of the legislation is, then I think my amendment to LB 72 makes considerably more sense than LB 72 as it is written, so with that I offer my amendment to LB 72.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. I will now recognize Senator Ashford, followed by Senators Dierks, Rod Johnson, and Morrissey. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, members. I listened to Senator Conway's presentation of his amendment and I am not certain how I will vote on it. I'll listen to the debate, and as I indicated to Senator Dierks yesterday, and I knew that Senator Conway was bringing this amendment, I indicated to him that I was not sure how I was going to vote on it. But I think at least Senator Conway, by bringing the amendment, has centered the debate where it belongs, and that is on the issue of community consent. I liken this issue, in many respects, to another issue which was very divisive in this Legislature and that is the issue that we battled back and forth in the Commonwealth issue, and on that issue, I, at least on my vote, which was always in favor of the Commonwealth depositors, was based primarily on my view that the state made a commitment to the people who were depositors of Commonwealth, and that when we get into the practice of splitting hairs over whether or not the state has an obligation, I think we are getting to awful muddy waters, and that when we have to do that, when we have to go through these exercises of mental gymnastics to try to not do something, which we know in our gut we should do, we run into some problems I think in trying to explain that to the voters and to the people of our state. The same sort of analysis has followed me in this bill, and I have supported LB 72 since it started, and I think of it the same way. And I was locking at