

Senator Johnson's letter and I have gotten the statutes out to take a look at some of the legislative history, and I know in 1988 that we made...did put some intent language into the statute concerning what we thought community consent meant. But I think it is time that we talk straight to the people of the State of Nebraska. Community consent means consent. It doesn't mean community discussion. It doesn't mean community involvement. It doesn't mean community bantering back and forth. It doesn't mean a vote of a county board. It doesn't mean the vote of some sort of an NRD district board. It means the consent of the community, and consent only means approval or disapproval. That is what it means. That is what the people of the state, when they look at this, think it means and we, as a Legislature, to try to split hairs to talk around it are asking for an awful lot of trouble. And to me, this issue is more important than just LB 72, but it is an issue of credibility of this body, as I thought it was in the Commonwealth issue as well, that even though it may cost us money, that even though we may have to go through a process of trying to find another way of dealing with our waste, though I would suggest that I think there are other ways of dealing with it effectively, the spirit, the spiritual aspects, how we as a state deal in our spirit with these problems is what is important. And as we nip away at our spirit by voting against those things that we know in our heart are right, the spirit of our state starts to erode, and I think that happened in the Commonwealth case. And I think if we vote no on this, it is going to happen here, too. It is going to happen here, too. And one of the things that has been suggested is, well, if we vote on this, we are going to have to vote on everything. It opens the door to a vote on everything, and that is just...that is just a spurious argument and a red herring. This is a very unique case where we are asking a part of our state to take low-level nuclear waste,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...to take low-level nuclear waste in an area where it is not generated. It is generated somewhere else, and we are asking them to put it in their area. It is a lot different than a decision made by a city council, for example, to decide whether or not to site a medical waste facility in the City of Omaha. The generators are in Omaha. The city council makes the decision, and so forth and so on. But the real issue to me is one of spirit. Are we going to continue to find ways to get around our obligations like I believe we did in the