

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have amendments from Senator Rod Johnson.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I'd ask to pass over those.

CLERK: I have nothing further pending on the bill other than your amendments, Senator.

SPEAKER BAACK: They are passed over. We are now on the motion to advance LB 72. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just...I want to rise to state my position on this bill and why I will vote no. This is an issue and a service to the citizens directly and indirectly in five states. It is a public project that is less than desirable to the people who...where the proposed site is being asked to be located. We don't know yet whether it is licensable. A public project that is less than desirable is something that the citizens of the state depend on, the citizens of the five states depend on, and if a small group in one county has a veto power through a vote, that is a disservice to the rest of the community that needs the facility. I feel it is a poor public policy to locate something of a public need through a vote of the people that directly surround it. If the site is unlicensable, it should not be put there, and if it is found unlicensable, this process should be changed so that the very best site is found, whether it is in Nebraska or another state. Eminent domain should be used to acquire the project if it is not already state or federal property, and the siting continue and see if the new site would be licensable. And with that, I think that my position is still what it was from the beginning, and a lot of the political things that have been said surrounding this issue have submerged it beneath a lot of very difficult situations and that the reality of the type of project that it would be has been lost in all the rhetoric and discussion. I would continue to ask the Legislature and the members of it to examine your conscience very closely before you embark on this completely different policy for siting public works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Rod Johnson,