

stance on it had they the opportunity to vote today. And for me, I have not seen that change of circumstances yet. And I would say to Senator Dierks, preserve your right and your ability and your hammer of presenting another bill to the Legislature on community consent next year because, sure enough, that will kill the project if we do that, but don't do it now because our direction from the people was to proceed with this matter unless there has been some serious change of circumstances, which I think we have not seen. And I suggest to you that there is a credibility problem that may exist with regard to those voters if we did not proceed in accordance with their direction. In any event, I think you have a better choice before you now than you had earlier. Earlier you had the choice of community consent or do nothing, with regard to improving the situation. Now you have the choice of adopting this amendment which means that you can do community consent if that is your judgment, or if you are still feeling, as I am, unsure about the wisdom of allowing a community consent vote at this time. Then...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...there is something else positive that you can do, and that thing that you can do is to ensure, as best we can ensure, that the other states will proceed, Kansas, specifically, will proceed with the shared liability obligation that they have, and that is no small thing. To get everybody in agreement on that particular aspect of this project is no small thing. So I hope you will proceed to adopt the amendment and thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Morrissey, you are next.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. This is no small thing. This is a sad thing. This is really sad. I know we can do whatever we want with 25 votes in this body, but who on this floor besides me after five, four years knows that we can't do that? Who knows that? We can't legally do this amendment consistent with the compact. We can't do that. I wish we could. I said it when the bill came out last year. We can't do it. Am I the only person in this body that knows that, after four years? Can't do it. We signed onto a contract. We can do it, we can do it, we will be violating the contract. Unless all parties agree to it in the contract, you can't do it.