

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President, and colleagues, and, Senator Chambers and Senator Lindsay, I have great regard also for the concerns that you express with respect to the rights of people to have freedom of religion, right to assemble, not to inflict cruel and unusual punishment and those kinds of things. I mean, I...those have a very high priority on, I think, everyone's list that's here. I'm sure Senator Jones has regard for those rights. I know I do. The thing that...I would like to try to keep this bill in perspective a little bit. There's no question but what people...people's right to practice their religion should be protected, their freedom of speech, their right to assemble, the right to counsel in a criminal proceeding, the right of the free press. Those are very, very significant rights. The courts have had numerous cases where they have protected those rights. There are any number of advocacy groups that look after those rights. They're very visible advocacy groups. And, Senator Preister, I don't want to put something in the law that would allow pollution to the detriment of the public or the safety of the public. That's...that's not the purpose at all. But I think what we...what people sense we've seen over the last several years or a couple decades is kind of a quiet nonnoticeable erosion of the freedom to use one's property for legitimate, lawful purposes, and that's also very important in this country. It's not in terms of what's most important. I wouldn't be one to say here...sit here and say if I had to rank the rights, that I would put that above...certainly wouldn't put it above some of the freedoms that Senator Chambers speaks of or Senator Lindsay spoke of; I wouldn't. But I don't think we have to rank the rights. We have numerous court decisions. We have a body of law that protects our rights and you can believe and we see it all the time. If there's an infringement of our right to speech, there are people who are willing to come forward with money, with lawyers to help us protect those rights. This quiet erosion of the right of a private property owner to simply use and enjoy their property is something, I think, that needs a little attention and that's just what this bill does. And this bill, Senator Preister, I want to address the litigation point that you made with regard to the location of a nuclear waste dump or whatever, this bill is not going to cause litigation, this bill will prevent litigation because it will cause our