

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: You are a member of the Judiciary Committee that passed this out, correct?

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, and the question I have, is there any concern in your mind whether the State of Nebraska has the authority to pass a law like 750, and could you spend a couple of minutes just talking about that issue?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Maurstad, my... I guess my interest in the bill was the portion of the committee amendments that were just stripped, and I am making a point here in terms of trying to compare the... I guess the importance we put on inanimate objects as opposed to people with regard to this amendment, but I firmly believe in it. If this amendment is not adopted, I guess my interest in the bill wanes considerably, and I think that... really the reason I supported it out of committee was because the committee amendments contained the uniform statute of repose, not only for folks in the high-level area but other types of products.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So you don't have an opinion as to whether or not the underlying bill, 750, whether the State of Nebraska has the authority to pass...

SENATOR HALL: Your question is, are we exempt, or preempted, rather, by federal law? Yeah, that is an argument, but that doesn't mean that we can't go ahead and pass a similar piece of legislation as long as it is I guess not more restrictive. There probably would not be anything to keep the state from doing that.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So you don't think there is a problem with the state passing this, this particular piece of legislation?

SENATOR HALL: Oh, we... we pass all kinds of things that may or may not cause problems down the road. I can just tell you that my interest in the bill was in the committee amendment that was just stripped.