

different sides were in the quote, in the negotiations of this particular amendment? What position the Governor's Office was taking? Who was taking other positions? I'd rather, when you talk about a compromise, I'd like to know what...what the extremes were and what then the compromise was, number one, and then, number two, if you could explain to me if, for example, the developer goes bankrupt, is out of business, and there gets to be in the future after the closure a major problem, where does the compact sit in, get involved, or does the compact still get involved in helping a state with a...with a cleanup or with a potential environmental problem, or is it just simply going to fall on...on Nebraska? If you could answer those two, I'd appreciate that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure. Senator, the extremes, I suppose crudely stated and oversimplified, the developer, on the one hand, wanted the state to own it from the very beginning, totally, always, and on the other hand the Governor's Office wanted the developer to be the owner forever, which was perceived as being somewhat impractical and so, hence, the compromise. The developer would own it up through closure and approve turnover to the state and the state would own it thereafter. The liability provisions of the...of the compact, as amended, and there's provisions in here saying that we don't take any ownership of land until there is final approval by the federal government of the amended liability provisions, but the final structure never leaves Nebraska alone with liability. First of all, it's developers, then the utilities. After the utilities, let me see, I think it's the states together, not Nebraska alone but the states together in the event that the...that certain mechanisms that are put in place to be sure it never gets to the states, in the event that it ever should happen, it would be the states together that would bear the liability.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler, and with that explanation, at least at this point, even though it is Final Reading, I'll be supporting the amendment. Obviously, the bill would be...will be brought back, we'll have time to look at it a little bit more so if there are other questions we can...we can discuss those when the bill comes up again on Final Reading, but at this point, I will be supporting the amendment.