

you'll hear the other side, too. But, basically, the bill with amendments does a lot of defining and redefining of liability provisions, especially as those provisions apply to the custodial care period of time. This whole statutory framework is broken up into periods of time starting with the operational period, going through a closure period, and then a custodial care period that goes on for a hundred years. And there was some ambiguity with respect to liabilities as they may pertain among the various different parties during that custodial care period and the Monitoring Committee and Pat Knapp did some really excellent work in that area and brought the parties I think to agreement in that area. A very key aspect of the bill is providing for state ownership of the facility ultimately and that brings us into compliance with what is believed to be federal law and also what I believe to be good policy in that I think the people of Boyd County ought to be backed up ultimately by the people of the state in this matter. The final thing that we will be discussing here a little bit is what I call an enforcer provision meant to enforce federal approval of some of the compact changes that were recently made and the amendment that Senator Landis will have deals with the question of the level of leverage or the level of consequence that we want to put in this provision to ensure federal approval of compact changes. What happened was basically this. Those of you who were involved in the issue will remember that we had the compact, there wasn't exactly a total discussion on what it all meant at the time that we enacted the provisions allowing the establishment of a compact, so the compact came and all of a sudden we discovered that the liability provisions and also the public input provisions of the statutes and the compact...compact agreements were not particularly adequate. And so, in the Nebraska Legislature, you will remember a couple years ago we passed statutes dealing with both of those areas, tightening up considerably the liability provisions. We passed them here in Nebraska and we sent them around to all of the other states to pass and they all did pass them, Kansas, though, with the proviso that the approval would go into effect, the approval of the changes would go into effect at the time that the facility...construction of the facility in Nebraska occurred. With a compact, the nature of the animal is such that ultimately these changes approved by the individual states have to, in turn, be approved by the federal government. And in the committee amendments to this particular bill, when you read it in conjunction with the language on page 14 of the bill, this is