

have a vote on the issue.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Dierks, followed by Senators Beutler and Chambers.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I just wanted to address some of the things that Senator Landis was talking about and also Senator Beutler. LB 1201 represents a compromise and when you compromise you...there's some trade-offs. Sure, there are things that I would like to see different in the bill, but I think that reality has set in with me on this issue and I think we have an opportunity to get something in effect that will provide some things that we really need and maybe not provide all the things we want. I think that the committee amendments may require that the developer... I think this is very important. US Ecology is the developer and they're in a tremendous amount of hurt right now financially. If you read the papers, their parent company, American Ecology, is in great financial duress. These committee amendments require that the developer provide financial assurances before a license can be granted up there that this will be taken care of in the event of catastrophic leakage or contamination. The Department of Environmental Quality has to make sure that the developer has that ability. That's in these committee amendments. We think that's necessary. They further clarify the chain of responsibility in the event a cleanup become necessary, assessing costs first against the financial security posted, that we talked about; secondly, against the generators proportionately, according to the volume they put in there; and, finally, against the party states as provided by the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. The next part about the amendment I wanted to talk about was that no waste shall be accepted by the facility until all states have adopted the compact amendments, and I have to...I have to stay with my commitment to that because that's part of the compromise. Another thing that LB 1201 does, it addresses the issue of when and if the state of Nebraska shall take title to the land on which the disposal facility is located. Currently, the law states that the land must be owned by the state prior to licensure. The bill provides that the site shall be owned by the licensed facility operator during the operational life and closure period and then transferred to the state, and I think that's essential and my people think that that's essential also. I should tell you that when we got into this issue last fall and