

then into the early winter that I've talked with the people, the generators and with the people from the Monitoring Committee in Boyd County. Now, these are the two people that have the interest, and my purpose in asking them to get together and work their differences out was that they could be satisfied with the result. I said, I don't care whether you satisfy me or Senator Beutler or the administration or US Ecology. The people that have to be satisfied are the generators and the people in Boyd County, and that's exactly what these committee amendments do and I would ask that you not support the Landis amendment but support the committee amendments and allow this bill to go on and do these things that I've stipulated in my opening here on the committee amendments and allow this to proceed as we think that it should. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, this is a question of degree, what degree of leverage you think is appropriate and necessary. Senator Dierks has indicated to you the sensitivity of this compromise. I don't know what parties would do if things were changed. I would prefer not to change them unless there is a very strong reason to do so. Despite the legitimacy of Senator Landis' question and the validity of some of his arguments, I don't believe that it is the better argument. There has been no indication whatsoever that the Congress would not approve the amendments to the compact and so we anticipate that they most certainly will. It is most certainly in the interest of each state that's involved in the compact to get their representatives in Congress to approve the compact. After all, they, too, have sunk large amounts of money into this project. They, too, want it to go; they want it to work. So I think that the leverage that we've put into the bill is, in fact, adequate, doesn't...isn't overly pugnacious, allows us to proceed with construction if that's what happens. If DEQ ultimately says we can proceed with it, it allows us to proceed with it without delaying and incurring additional costs perhaps simply because the Congress has not gotten itself organized enough to act on something that it most certainly will act on. Especially in light of the turmoil in Congress recently and the inability of the parties to agree with one another and to reach compromises on things, some of the small stuff of government is taking