

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Landis, to open on the motion to suspend the rules.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I'll do my best to explain myself in ten minutes, give my opponents their chance to speak, and then if we can move expeditiously to the rest of the day. On the bill right...on the board right now is LB 750, a priority bill, designated by Senator Preister. It's my own bill from last year, and it has to do with high-level nuclear waste. This is not a debate about high-level nuclear waste. If it was, it would take three hours and, since I haven't been able to draw the parties together, the bill would probably be highly controversial and probably lose. But it's my turn at bat, that's why it's up there, and it's gotten up there under the normal course of events. I have a priority bill from this year, it is the third bill of the unconsidered priority bills that we've had so far this year. One of those priority bills is Senator Will's, although he is a supporter of this measure, one of them is Senator Brashear's, who's ahead of me on that priority bill designation, that's his athletic agent bill, although I'd have to say that I think that Senator Brashear has had a moment in the sun with the UP bill. But mine, this bill that I'm now trying to amend, 4332, is a priority bill. And I'm asking for what we would consider as a procedural favor, because this guts 750 and puts in 4332, the brewpub bill. The brewpub bill came to the General Affairs Committee and it had a number of controversial aspects and it had a number of opponents. I sat down with what I knew to be the opponents at the time, I worked the bill out, those included the manufacturers and the wholesalers, and I made appropriate adjustments to make sure that brewpubs could only sell their beer off-sale through the use of a distributor in some other location. That satisfied the interests of the other parties, they withdrew their objections, the committee advanced the bill six to nothing, it was on consent calendar as a priority but didn't move up the ladder quickly enough. Since that time I've learned that there is an opponent to the bill, David Begley from Omaha, who is I think the holder of a manufacturer's license and is attempting to establish a location in Omaha for the manufacture of beer and to sell them in that niche market of craft breweries, microbreweries, brewpubs. He's in a delicate situation right now, he's out trying to get some money for his operation, and he objects to the bill because it gives brewpubs