

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 1999 LB 530

question is the adoption of AM1063. All in favor vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: The amendment is adopted. Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to speak to LB 530.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I know of few other issues who have divided this state as the low-level nuclear waste site and the process nationally to take care of our low-level nuclear waste. Senator Dierks, it was, what, ten years ago on this floor when the first sites were selected. There were three communities, one in Senator Vrtiska's district, one in Senator Dierks' district, and one in the district that I represented at that time, now I believe, well, I am not sure who represents that district right now. Senator Schrock does, it's close. It was the subject of a statewide election. The voters of this state at that point in time I believe fairly, the way it can be construed, is that there was a vote to withdraw us. In effect, the voters rejected that. The state proceeded in good faith to continue to site, to license, and to build a facility. That became a very, very difficult process. Those people who were involved in that were subject to outside influences. I can...I can remember going to meetings that took state patrolmen to get legislators out of those meetings. The Capitol had hundreds of people visit us, and there was genuine fear and genuine uneasiness about the whole process. There was lots of allegations about, well, these promises had been made. There were promises that there would have to be community consent, and what was that community consent. Did that mean that a community had to vote? And there were communities who had sent a letter saying we're interested because this is economic development. Those letters were then construed as conveying not just interest but were construed to be community consent. We, over the years, I think have moved forward. We have been very patient. Nationally, what's occurred is that the need for all of these sites has subsided, and what the hook was at the time we were involved and where the sitings began were that if we did not belong to a compact we could not refuse waste from other states. And so if you joined