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with a compact, at least you could restrict where that waste was going to come from, and that's how we got into this. The time has come, however, that there are not...there is not the need today for all these waste sites. There are lots of issues that are out here about liability. Last year this Legislature appropriated money and the Executive Board hired a law firm in Washington, DC, to give us an opinion about what would happen if we would withdraw. That opinion, basically, comes back and is the opening that Senator Dierks just gave. We can withdraw. It is a...a compact is like a contract at this point. The trouble is it's been...it's been...it's my understanding been blessed and approved by Congress to make it a valid compact, but in that compact we have the ability to withdraw. The issue is, should we withdraw? There is current pending litigation about the licensing process, and Senator Dierks or Senator Beutler, Senator Schrock, who was in this last meeting, I think there is some mention that we should look at that a little bit here yet this afternoon because this is a big step, but the issue is may we be expelled.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Because expulsion carries with it, in my opinion, a much greater penalty. And the expulsion would be that we did not act in good faith in denying the permit or the license for the structure or for the facility. I think we have acted in good faith in this state. I don't think that case ought to be successful. The issue, though, for me, is what is in the best interest of Nebraska, and I suggest to you at this point in time we still need to deal with our own low-level nuclear waste that we generate. Hospitals, nuclear plants have low-level waste that we must still address. Those needs don't go away. We just can't wash our hands and say we're done with low-level waste in this state. But I think the big issue is, should we withdraw from that compact? The need is no longer there. And our liabilities, where do they lie? I do think that it's a five-year...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...obligation, and I'll put my light on further.