

Senator Eret has raised just one point. I think we all understand that this body is a give and take process. We have, I think, tried our best to give and take on many of the issues affecting this bill. I think that has culminated into the amendment that we are now discussing. I would strongly urge you to adopt this amendment because it is a lot of hard work on a lot of different people, including senators, their staffs and interest groups involved in this have spent a lot of time over the summer and early in this session developing this amendment. I think it is one that we can live with. Ultimately I am looking forward to seeing LB 284 pass.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten, do you wish to speak? The speaking order after Senator Carsten is Senators Sieck, Schmit, Morehead and Vickers.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have a couple of questions of Senator Schmit, if Senator Schmit will yield. Senator Schmit, I am fully aware that your time was limited in the presentation of your amendment. Hurriedly I have tried to go through it, but it is a little difficult to put it all into the digestive tract too hurriedly. First, I want to address the distance that Senator Eret tried to put in. I do not find any restriction on distance in your amendment. Is this correct, and if not is there any reason for concern in your opinion?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I really don't believe so, Senator Carsten, because the natural resource district is the prime agency that is responsible for the approval and the supervision. We felt, and I think maybe perhaps you might want to ask Senator Johnson also, that the consultation with those individuals was more important, perhaps, than any arbitrary distance. Because it may well be that an NRD would deny a chemigation permit at a distance greater than that mentioned by Senator Eret because...for a variety of reasons, topographical, geographical, hydrologic or others. So we are placing a lot of responsibility with the natural resource districts and finally with the DEC. But it was determined that it was best to make that responsibility a very valid one, and therefore we did not place a specific distance limitation in there.

SENATOR CARSTEN: That, Senator Schmit, leads me to my next question. Maybe it is repetitious and maybe I should be