

February 26, 1991 LB 67

them or close them, and you are going to have to have a plan that will be approved by the department and, thus, it will be a reasonable plan and you have to have one that has dates for closure or coming into compliance. If you think the cities are out there just hanging back, you are wrong. They have been working, the cities, the counties have been working on this long and they are ready to go. They just want help. They are not going to drag their heels and all come in on a last day en masse to swamp the department. That won't happen and you all know that won't happen. I trust the cities. I trust the counties, the small towns, to do what is right because they told me now they are ready to go. They don't care about federal regs. They want to do what is right by the state, and they want us to help them out. LB 67 will do what is right. With the committee amendments, it will give the help to the communities they need. With the amendment to the committee amendments, it will provide closure dates for their personal landfill, not one blanket date for everyone, regardless of the circumstances. And it will tell them it is their responsibility, it is their trash, and you had better get in gear because you are going to have to do it. You can no longer ignore the situation. I think that is the best way to go about it. When I walked into this building two years ago, I wanted to do away with Whitney. I just haven't figured out how to do it. Now I have been told by some of the more senior members, you just don't worry about it, the feds will do it for you. That is not the right attitude, folks. We need to do it but we need to do it correctly, and I think 67, with the committee amendments and this amendment, is the right way to go, and I would urge you to support this amendment and the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. I will now recognize Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to Senator Morrissey's amendment and I agree with what Senator Rod Johnson just said, and I believe the green copy is the way to go. I want to say to my colleague, Senator Morrissey, that I didn't just dream this bill up yesterday or the day before, or six weeks ago. I have been working on it for 20 years. That isn't exactly rushing into things, you know, but the facts are, as I indicated in the letter that I sent out to you from Weston, Nebraska, that most of the communities are ahead of the state. Now it would be easy for me, Senator Morrissey, to resent your statement that we have not provided guidance and leadership to