

motion to indefinitely postpone, I can think of nothing at all constructive that that does. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members, I would tend to agree to those individuals in this body that have not followed this issue very closely that it has been somewhat confusing, but there is, as I see it, light at the end of the tunnel. As has been mentioned, there are forthcoming amendments, at least one that I am sponsoring, that would put a date certain back into the bill that I believe Senator Schmit was supportive of originally. Now I can't speak to that effect at this moment but killing the bill, obviously, kills the vehicle in which to address the issue. But I want to touch on some points that have been made about out-of-state garbage coming in. You are really comparing apples and oranges in this particular case because on the one hand, out-of-state garbage that is coming into the state is going into the state into licensed facilities, not into the unlicensed, but actually licensed facilities. And we have had bills to address that issue. We heard them on Friday. We will hear some more later, and I don't know what the answer is to that. But don't confuse that issue with the issue of addressing our own in-state garbage that is being disposed of in unlicensed facilities, and this bill gets to the heart of addressing how we are going to bring about an end to the Whitney exemption that has been on the books for some 19 to 20 years that allows many of our smaller communities to operate these unlicensed facilities, and do so legally. But I think the time has finally come when we need to begin addressing how we are going to find a solution to this problem because it is a growing problem and one that I think, as Senator Schmit made the comment, there are a number of communities out there that are willing to address this issue. There are some that don't want to, and some that will continue to fight or resist any changes in our state law. But we have to accept that, and I have spoken to the League and to others involved in this issue, and they seem willing to address the issue this year and to find a date certain as to when the exemption will come to an end. But by killing the bill, obviously, you kill any opportunity, at least at this stage, to address the issue of allowing unlicensed facilities to continue to operate. And I guess my attitude is, let's move forward in this bill and with this bill to address that problem, which is, I think, very significant and bring Nebraska into the twenty-first century on a high note as to how we dispose of our