

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just want to stand again in opposition to this amendment. I understand where Senator Landis and Senator Beutler are coming from but I don't think that this was the intent of the original compact agreement. The intent of that agreement was very plainly that there would be community consent and they didn't stipulate the first county that gets it, or the second one or the last one. They just said there will be community consent. Now this was a stipulation that Governor Orr put on the compact before we would accept the waste site in Nebraska and the compact agreed to it. We had that same stipulation by the members of the county board in Boyd County. They said, we will invite you to come here and look but if you don't...but we have the right to community consent or we won't support the siting here. We have this all documented in that little handout that I have given you. I hope you will take time to read that. I think that we still have to go back to what is the democratic process. Do we start...do we start putting the brakes on the whole process or do we allow it to go as it's supposed to? I don't think that we should penalize one group at the benefit of another. I think that we have this information for us from day one that there will be community consent and I think that means every community. So I agree with Senator Schellpeper when he said that you take this vote out there and you might find some counties that will support. I think that that could happen. I'm not...I think it could have happened better, easier two or three years ago because over this period of time we've lost a lot of faith in government. We've lost a lot of faith in some of the siting process and we've lost some faith in the Compact Commission and I think that's understandable. So I would oppose this amendment and hope that we can get on with the committee amendments and on with the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think we have had a pretty good debate on the subject. I would like to clarify one point. As I understand the record, the compact itself has never supported or demanded or asked for or consented to a special election as the form of community consent. The compact indicated that community consent was a part of the deal. They agreed that that could be...the state could do that. But I don't recall any evidence whatsoever that