

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, once again the one and only point of this amendment is to say that the Legislature must ratify any agreement entered into by our Governor with respect to these kinds of compacts. Now let me say, let me say first of all that I do not believe this to be a one-sided requirement in any regard as suggested by Senator Chambers. We as representatives of the people of the State of Nebraska have the right to say to our negotiating agent what it is, the terms under which, the guidance which we wish to give that agent. The Omaha Tribe or whatever tribe is involved on the other side has an equal right to say to its agent, you negotiate, the tribal council will approve. We can't say to the Omaha tribal council, I'm sure it would be offensive if we tried to say to them, your tribal council has to approve your side. That's their business. But it is our business to say what we expect of our negotiating representative. Secondly, I don't think it is in any sense impractical as suggested by Senator Hohenstein. It was not impractical and I did not see debate on the Low-Level Nuclear Compact that was divisive. We weren't able to not...we were able to reach agreement on that. I don't know in any sense on something important of this nature where we failed to reach agreement on it in here. And if we failed somehow to reach agreement there is a process by which agreement is reached. But think about it, if we fail to reach agreement, why do we fail to reach agreement? Because there is something in there worthy of debate, because there is something in there worthy of debate. And it just might be that we don't approve of the way our Governor negotiates something. Maybe he's not a good negotiator or maybe she won't be next time around, or whoever. We don't know what is going to happen in the future. That's the major problem with this and I think we have to look at whatever agreement we make now with respect to what might happen in the future. If you say that the Governor can approve now, the Governor can also approve in the future without ever coming back to us and the situation might be dramatically different 10 years or 15 years from now. Many important things are being decided including the jurisdiction on criminal and civil law and as you well know and as Senator Hohenstein already knows, that's an area upon which there is much disagreement from time to time. We have gone through the process now and I'm not sure it's altogether bad of having removed from the bill almost all specific directions to our negotiator. We basically said to the Governor, here, follow the general prerogatives of federal law and whatever you come up with, you come up with. Well