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FLOOR DEBATE

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state because, as all of us know, one of our most important commodities that the state of Nebraska has is water. And much of it will continue to be contaminated if we can't take care of a problem that unknowingly many, many...many filling station and many places of business were causing a contaminant that we weren't aware of. Nobody was doing it because they wanted to, they just didn't understand the process. We do now and we know what's happening. And as I indicated earlier, I think the DEQ is doing an excellent job of managing this fund, putting it to proper use. You see...you see it happening in a great many smaller companies who don't have the resources; in fact it would probably put them out of...it would put them out of business if they had to do it on their own. So I think it's a necessary evil, if you want to call it that, for us to continue. I don't like the idea of giving huge sums to big companies anymore than anybody else. And I guess I would hope that they...and I guess they do participate to some degree and I'd hope that they'd be forced to contribute their fair share in order to get this job done. And as somebody indicated earlier, some of this they inherited, it wasn't their doing; they acquired some of these stations and some of these facilities have had underground pollution developing. So I guess for that reason I feel uncomfortable about shutting down the funds to prolong the time that's necessary to carry out what needs to be done for the benefit of the citizens of this state. I do support the bill. I do support the bill from the standpoint I think it's good policy for us to look to alternative fuels for the future, to get away from our continued dependence on foreign oil and foreign companies to provide us the necessary means to propel our vehicles and carry about our work. So I'm going to support the bill, but I, at this point,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...can't...can't support the Bruning amendment. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Vrtiska a question.