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FLOOR DEBATE

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you too much, but you've always been pretty agreeable. And so I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I respectfully rise to oppose the amendment by Senator Preister. I certainly agree that he has a deep interest in this issue and he should have, and all of us should have. This is why we're here. I'm a little concerned about the number of a two-thirds majority simply because not very many boards are required to have a two-thirds majority to move on some issues. As a matter of fact, many issues would probably never move if that had to be the case. And it would only take four board members who might get on the board for the purpose of disruption to, in fact, stop anything from happening, and I don't think that this is what we want to do. These members of this public body are elected by the public to serve, and it's always been my position and will still remain to be my position, if these people are not doing the right kind of job, they should be removed by the public and replaced with people who are more responsible. So I have a deep concern about that kind of a amendment placed on this piece of legislation. I took this piece of legislation simply because, not only is it important to southeast Nebraska, where I live, but more importantly it's important to the state of Nebraska. It provides power to this entire state. I think most of the counties in the state receive power through...from public power and certainly, as Senator Schrock indicated, our power rates are as low or lower than most of the states around us, and I just want to reiterate that this is still going to be a public power station. It's not going to be a privately owned institution. It's going to be still owned by the state of Nebraska. It's just changing who's going to manage it. And I don't want to get into a big dissertation about management, but it's been proven, I think without any question, that the management has been somewhat lacking and that's why we're in the position we are of trying to bring a management team who has been...who has been proven to be successful in the management of the plants that they are currently managing and it would appear in the best interests of the state of Nebraska and the tax...the ratepayers to have a management team who can continue to the operation of