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vehicles are where the future lies. Hydrogen is the most plentiful element on the planet. It is found in every glass of water, in natural gas and even in landfill gas-sewage. This is not a new technology. Sir William Robert Grove invented the fuel cell in the 1830s. Grove knew that by using electricity he could split water into hydrogen and oxygen. He theorized if you reversed the process and combined hydrogen and oxygen you would get electricity. He tried it. It worked. It still works today and after billions of dollars in investment and research, fuel cell buses and vehicles are now on the road. So it's a technology out there that I'm not equipped to tell you about. But I do know that when you produce electricity, hydrogen is a by-product. And our public power entities in the state want to be able to use that, see if they can produce electricity with it, see if they can power fuel cells with it. And we know that's possible. We're just not sure where everything falls into place. And before they go any further with this technology and experimenting with it, they want explicit authority in statute to allow them to do that. I don't believe this prohibits anybody else from being involved in hydrogen technology. But public power wanted to make sure, before they got any more involved in it, that it was in the statutes that they could do this.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And they, under this bill, could be in the business of manufacturing hydrogen fuel cells?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, that would be my understanding.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But anybody else could also be in that business?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And besides the production of hydrogen fuel cells, is there any other technology that's authorized by this bill? Any other...are there other hydrogen technologies out there that we're talking about? Or is this basically what we're talking about here?

SENATOR SCHROCK: We don't know, Senator Beutler. And I don't