

regarding power plant sitings in the State of Nebraska, fights between local land owners and the power districts, fights between the power districts themselves. I think that in looking at the record of these disputes one would see that the Power Review Board has used very limited criteria in looking at this question. Now I think that if there is anything that is a major cost in our utility budgets today, it is the construction of power plants. If there is anything that has long term impact on the stability, the financial stability of those power districts it is the bonded indebtedness that grows out of those power plants. Those power plants, one single plant can cost as much as the state budget that we have debated for weeks here on the legislative floor. That is an obligation that is made for all of us and must be paid off for a long time. If there is anything that is disruptive to a local community in terms of its impact on schools or in terms of its local environment it is one of these major power plant constructions. I think that you only have to ask legislators who have had a power plant built in their district to understand the total social and economic impact. As we see most recently, there may be anything for which there is a potential for abuse with regards to contracts and contractors with regards to quality construction it is these expenditures on power plants. Therefore I think that it is very timely that Senator Simon brings in a bill that gets more specific about what must be considered before we allow this major financial obligation. Gets a little more specific at what must be looked at before we disrupt local communities. It gets a little more specific about what the Power Review Board must consider before final application. I think that this is probably one of the most crucial public power bills that has been brought in. Its impact I think will be felt in many, many, districts where power plants have been considered or are being considered. I think that in the long run it is going to provide for better decision making in the State of Nebraska, not just by the Power Review Board but by the power districts themselves. It will pose to the power districts the types of questions that must be answered before they bring the application to the Power Review Board and in their analysis and in their research they will have to look at questions of demand for the power, efficiency of providing the power, the impact on the area of the site and so on. These are the types of questions that should be asked before a power plant is sited. I can not see how a power district could claim that any single one of these questions is irrelevant. I think that they are key, I think that they are essential, they are the sort of policy questions that should be answered. It is unfortunate that we have to spell it out in statute to have them