

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, yes, Senator Johnson was right, the committee amendments, we ran the bill by the Department of Environmental Control and they suggested these amendments to harmonize the language that we use with the language they use within the department and then they supported the bill and supported the amendments. So I would urge you to support the amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss the committee amendments? Seeing no one, Senator Johnson, do you wish to close? He waives closing. We will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments to LB 528. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now proceed to the bill as amended. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Mr. Speaker and members, this is a simple bill having to do with the environment and the decisions we, as a state, make on the environment in the future. The Appropriations Committee did a study, LR 309, actually directed Appropriations, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Judiciary Committee and the Natural Resources Committee to conduct a joint study to examine the issues impacting the Department of Environmental Control. The State of Nebraska did...and I have that in my hand and I'm going to read just small bits from that right now. You should all have a copy possibly in your office. The introduction says the State of Nebraska has long utilized federal grants to provide funding for environmental protection regulation programs carried out by the department, grants for the DEC...or grants from the EPA have funded a number of water quality, land quality and air quality programs beginning in the seventies. However, a study conducted by the National Governors Association in 1989 observed that federal funding, in addition to state and local funding, is no longer keeping pace with the increased demands of environmental protection programs. Diminished EPA role in future program funding is borne out in a 1990 EPA report, a preliminary analysis of the public costs of environmental protection. In