

May 8, 1995

LB 429

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Wehrbein, I was just reading this...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Amendment?

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...amendment that's been inserted in here in place of the original bill and I guess the part that I didn't quite understand, maybe I missed out on it earlier, but the fees that are collected, who are those collected from and do you know what the amounts, and it indicates where they go but where do they come from?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I don't know the amounts. I...maybe I'll have that in a second. The emission fee is \$30 and 25 percent, \$30.25 per ton of pollutant. The initial fee will be due no later than November 15, 1995. The fee may be increased or decreased by DEQ based on percentage changes in the Consumer Price Index. The agency estimates that the revenue from the fee will total 1.5 million dollars annually and I would say that it would...those would be, these fees would be assessed on those industries in Nebraska that are considered polluters under this definition. I assume smokestacks types industries, that type of thing.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. That's what I was curious, where those fees, because it doesn't indicate that and I didn't have that much knowledge about where the...where the fees were collected, but I guess that gives an explanation of that. Then in other words, then to follow up and I do agree with what Senator Bromm said, by the way, except I don't oppose the amendment, but I do think that he had a good point. The other point, the other part that I wanted to have you look to and that was apparently the DEQ is administering these funds. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Say again. I didn't hear you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: DEQ administers these funds.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: They're put...