

benefit for our power plant in Grand Island, so thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Fisher. There are no further lights. Senator Bohlke, would you like to close on your bill?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President and members, just as a quick review, this would let the smaller major source utilities, and that's generally Grand Island, Hastings, and Fremont, would not pay on emissions over 400 tons. It would leave the larger major source utilities to continue to pay at the 4,000 ton level. This was an inequity that we thought was there before and it corrects that. Any surplus funds generated from 1995 and 1996 emission fees are to be used to offset any potential reduction in revenue resulting from the 400 ton cap and the legislative intent to change the funding mechanism in 1998 to a 50 percent emission fee and 50 percent actual cost of service to the fund program. This will provide for more department accountability and it's done in states such as Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Massachusetts and Montana, and that was of 1990, so I'm sure there are other states that have moved in this direction. By January 1 of each year, DEQ must submit a report documenting program costs. After January 1, 1997, the report must identify costs to administer the permit program and costs incurred by primary activity not specific to a major source. This would create a more detailed report of how DEQ is administering the program and, by December 1 of 1996, DEQ is to submit a report proposing options for funding the 50 percent fee and the 50 percent actual cost of service funding mechanism to the Natural Resources Committee. I do appreciate Senator Preister's concerns and I've seen his amendment and I have no objection to it. There will also be, I think, another amendment, small amendment that concerns the grain elevators that will be offered on Select File. They are both very minor and we have no objections to that. So, the two-tiered cost we address with this, but also we look at the intent of the amendment as far as accountability to the public. And I believe that everybody should share in the lowest possible fees and rates and the DEQ has an obligation to monitor the Clean Air Act in the most efficient way possible. The taxpayers are paying for the bill for this program and I don't think that it would be too much to ask. Therefore, I ask for support of LB 634. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. You've heard the