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be 5.7, it needs to be about 3.5 million. And they came back with a reduced estimate of the cost of this litigation for the first year. And I'm advised that they have briefed Senator Wehrbein, as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, on this about \$2.2 million reduction. So it's possible that maybe just filing this amendment has saved us some money. Nevertheless, whether the expense is going to be 5.7 or 3.5 million dollars, it's money we're going to have to spend to defend a lawsuit, essentially started by one of the political subdivisions of our own state. And curiously, so the record is straight, I would point out that among the plaintiffs are other power companies, in addition to OPPD. But NPPD is not one of the plaintiffs in this case. NPPD also has a nuclear plant, but they chose not to sue the state in this action. It's a very complex action, it's just begun. The first order is just a preliminary injunction, it only took the court 38 pages to explain the reason for it. You all know this type of litigation becomes very expensive. Over the long run, I think it is unnecessary and subject to a lot of questions which I have raised. I have discussed this amendment with other members of this body, particularly those involved in the Revenue Committee. There are some technical corrections and changes that may have to be made before it could even be operative. I raise this issue and I invite someone or anyone to comment on the problem, if they wish to.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. For discussion on AM1424, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have to agree that Senator Matzke has some excellent points. I think that those are questions that we all should take into consideration and all try to find an answer to in our own minds. This whole process has been very lengthy, very torturous. We've gone through lots of ups and downs, and we think that we've conducted the opposition to the nuclear waste site storage facility in the manner that we are expected to in this legislative body. We've tried a number of times to get community consent, and this body refused to do that. We've tried to do...we've tried to define what community is, and we haven't been able to get that done. We've done a number of things that we've tried through, what I call, the democratic process, and it didn't work. But yet, when the license review