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FLOOR DEBATE

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and those grants were used to buy equipment. One of the people that applied for that grant was in Nebraska City, Jim Gerking, EnTire. And Jim bought some equipment, cryogenic processing is what it's called, where they broke...pulled the metal out of the tires, the metal beads. That metal is sent to Nucor Steel, and is part of what goes into the remanufacture, or the manufacture of steel. So it's recycled. There's a composition material that's in there. That's pulled out. That's taken to be recycled. The process breaks the rest of the tire down, and it's in various stages of chunks, or crumbs, and it's known as crumb rubber. Jim Gerking used that grant fund, bought equipment, and has been using and reprocessing our Nebraska tires for a number of years. Unfortunately, he suffered a tire fire at his facility in Nebraska City a couple of years ago, and was temporarily put out of business. But Mr. Gerking is not out of business. He did move part of his operation over to Missouri, where it's just across the river, and he's able to continue his operation. He's not wasting our grant money, as I understand it. He's still using that equipment. He's still taking Nebraska tires. He's still processing them. He's still selling the crumb rubber. So what we invested with EnTire is still going to deal with Nebraska tires. Now, in Nebraska City, he told us in the last hearing, he still maintains that site and he is still operating some things from Nebraska and Nebraska City. Now, depending on where his headquarters is and how he operates, he could still possibly be able to access some of these funds. But remember, he's using those funds to deal with Nebraska tires. So I think those funds are well used, and that's part of the grant process, and the DEQ will assess and make those determinations on how those funds are spent. There are other people who could apply for those funds, perhaps like the person in Senator McDonald's district, also the person in Senator Cunningham's district. We can use more of these processors to handle these tires. But we could get to the point where we're going to be using up all of the existing tires, the new tires, that are taken off of vehicles through this process, since we've eliminated all of the major storage tires. And those were the hardest tires to deal with, because some of them were full of mud, they had other materials in them, they were buried, we've dug them out of ditches, we've pulled them from old parks. They have come up out of landfills. Those were the