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FLOOR DEBATE

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November and in December, they had a split vote on taking that out. Those board members are elected by the public. A board from NMC does not have that same elected representation from Nebraska. They're an outside this state jurisdiction, an out-of-the-state company. That should raise some questions, questions that, again, I don't have the answers to. So my point is that to simply say that the board supports the resolution, they too had questions. They weren't certain about this indemnification, and on two different occasions they were equally split on the issue. They don't know that it's a good road to go down and they haven't fully embraced that, and I think that's an issue that we need to look at. If they who have the insight don't think it's necessarily the appropriate thing, then we should look at it more closely as well. They have looked at it for a long time. They are uncertain. I...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...think my time is just about up, so with the remaining minute I do want to clarify something that Senator Vrtiska said. I believe, Senator Vrtiska, you said that these employees would remain Nebraska Public Power District employees. Is that what you said to answer Senator Hartnett's question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Vrtiska, will you respond?

SENATOR VRTISKA: The employees that are down there would certainly remain with the new management. The management would be other people, but the people who worked there would still be the same people, is what I said.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay. I don't know that that is the case and, in the hearing, when that question was asked, I don't know that we had certainty to that question. Those employees could go and become NMC employees. They might remain as Nebraska employees, but that's a question until a contract is signed. And I did get a copy of a kind of boilerplate contract, but none has been signed, and in that, what could be the contract but isn't, it says the transfer of the organization and staff would go to NMC. Now they haven't signed it so that's not certain, but at this point the employees may not be Nebraska Public Power