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LB 165

District employees. We don't really know that, so I wanted to make sure Senator Hartnett got that information of that uncertainty. And I will put my light on again.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Issue before us is LB 165, offered by the Natural Resources Committee. On with discussion. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Jones, Janssen, Beutler, Brashear, Quandahl, Tyson, and Preister. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I appreciate Senator Preister's interest in this and certainly we all have an interest in this kind of an issue, and there's nothing wrong with giving a good review of what's happening. Let me tell you off the bat that when the 5-5 vote that he keeps talking about is certainly in line because many of the board members weren't sure exactly what they were entering into and they needed more information, and that's what we're doing here today and there's certainly nothing wrong with that. When they...when it became more clear as to what direction they were going...were going to go...and, you know, you can't blame people for having questions. That's what those board members are for, to make sure that they get the right answers. And I think at the time that they were trying to take a vote on this issue there was some unclear message that was being forward to them and they weren't sure exactly what they were doing, and I think that's the right way to go. That's the way it should be. I have to tell you that we don't all have the answers to this problem, but we do have the answer to the fact that people are going to continue to use power, and whether you approve of nuclear power or not is beside the point because it's here. It's all over the country. In fact, in some of the foreign countries they're still building plants. This country doesn't build any power plants anymore because of a great deal of opposition to some of the things that have happened. But we have to put in perspective that there is never an unending source of power for coal-fired plants, and my interest about this comes about because there's some discussion about the problems with nuclear power, and yet they fail to recognize that coal-fired plants certainly release a lot of undesirable pollutants in the air that are not good for the people who live around those plants either. And so it's a big