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indemnification issue in this process. And so some of them had some uncertainty whether they should vote for this or not, simply because of that. And with that, I'll turn the rest of my time back. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Jones, followed by Senator Janssen and seven others.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, I sit in on this hearing. It was real interesting and I think that it's something that we should move forward with. Since the hearing, I talked with a board member that actually was over the nuclear power system of the...and, anyway, he related to me quite a few times that they just could not get a handle on the management down there, and he was so flusterated with it that he was hoping they could figure out some other way. And what this bill does, that just gives them an option to do something else and I think that's what is really important here. It's still got to be a vote of the NPP board if they want to do something. And he told me that the vote was always 9 to 2 in favor of trying to do something else with somebody else. And this company here that we're talking about is doing it in eight other power plants and their track record is really good, and I might just quote what you have in front of you here. The average production cost in '99 through 2001 at the Cooper was \$23.87 per mega power...watt power, and that's an average of \$131 million per year. Now, in a comparable period, an average production cost with this other company that we're talking about here, with the Nuclear Management Company, that average was \$20.71, and that's for an average of \$112 million per year. That's a lot of difference and that's what their bottom line is, is trying to generate this energy for the cheapest amount of money they can. So I think that that's really the problem of it. And we've been talking about the liability just a little bit and NPPD has got the liability right now, and if this other company comes in they still got the liability, so that don't change. So I think we're trying to help...help out our electric bill, you know, by trying to support this idea, and hopefully we can move forward with it, because I think this is the right way to go. And, like I said earlier, it's just an option that they can do, and the NPP board still has to do this and still have to vote on it. So I'm in