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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SCHROCK:    Senator Beutler, I don't think this absolves Nuclear Management Company from misconduct or a lack of performing in a proper way. I don't think this absolves them of that liability. There was a dispute between NPPD and Nuclear Management Company. NPPD thought they could do this without legislation. Nuclear Management Company thought they needed to change the statutes to do this. And so that is why we were here...that is why we're here today with this bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER:    Well, let me go back another step and see if I understand something a little more fundamental. Does Cooper Nuclear plant currently have insurance that protects them and their ratepayers against a nuclear accident that may damage a lot of property and a lot of people? Do they have that insurance currently?

SENATOR SCHROCK:    Yes. Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER:    Now how much do they pay for that insurance?

SENATOR SCHROCK:    I don't know the answer to that right offhand. I think it can be obtained fairly quickly.

SENATOR BEUTLER:    Okay. And I would be interested. I noticed that some of the information in the handout seemed to indicate that they think that this not for profit can manage the plant more cheaply than they could. Is that right?

SENATOR SCHROCK:    The record would indicate that they're operating the plants that they're managing at a more cost-efficient manner than Cooper is now being managed.

SENATOR BEUTLER:    And that's notwithstanding that Cooper is, in fact, a not for profit, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK:    That is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER:    So they don't have to pay out any profits. They don't have to pay out anything to shareholders. And notwithstanding that distinct advantage, they cannot operate a