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important to this state to make this plant continue to operate in a safe manner. I will...I do want to ensure you that none of the issues that have been involved at the...at Cooper have been problems are not structural in nature. They are not physical in nature but, basically, they are operational. It's a matter of, apparently, it's been described and certainly it came to fruition that or came to reality that the operation of the plant has not been in the best interest of the future continuation of this plant. And, of course, if it's brought up to where it belongs, where it needs to be, then the plant can be relicensed for another 30 years. It kind of reminds you of airplanes that are 25 and 30 years old, and people wonder if they're safe. Well, if the maintenance on those airplanes...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...is kept up to the level it should be, those planes are just as safe or maybe safer than the brand new planes because they are tried and tested. It's about the same with the nuclear plant, as long as the maintenance on the plant is kept up to where it belongs, this plant can continue to operate for another 30 years without any danger to the public. And, of course, that's the bottom line. We have to make sure these plants are safe and that's the concern of bringing in a management company that can, in fact, take care of the needs that are down there, and in that regards let the plant continue to operate. With that, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. The Chair recognizes Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I have appreciated the discussions that we have had on this bill. I can understand both points of view, but I will be supporting the bill. I think the overall goal for NPPD is to get this plant to be a higher performance plant. And Senator Vrtiska has spoken about that. Sometimes it is necessary to bring in people from the outside to have a better idea and to look and see what are some of the problems. I think in our discussion we have pointed out that we had kind of a revolving door as far as executive directors at Cooper. We just...I