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SENATOR CUDABACK:      Senator Landis, to open on AM1066 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. This was the Bourne amendment as it was filed but with two changes. We talked to the PSC, and they need for their embedded costs about \$250,000 a year to run this program to be garnered from natural gas companies, user pays. So this says do that. Secondly it says in the event you need to get that money, the formula is that the utilities that are regulated will pay based on the number of meters as a proportion of all meters of regulated utilities. So that the \$250,000 would be collected from natural gas companies as their proportion of the business that they do in this state. And with those amendments, we could adopt the Bourne...with those changes, this amendment could be adopted and then moved. This is user pay, it repeals the sales tax language and the excise tax language, and it moves to the standard rule for natural gas regulation around the country, which is user pays. I'd ask for the adoption of this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Landis. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion of the amendment by Senator Landis, Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL:      Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I do have a couple of questions of Senator Landis, if he would respond, not only with respect to this particular amendment, but as to the global agreement that he spoke of on the entire bill. But I guess the first question that I would ask of Senator Landis, if he would respond, is I do have a little bit of confusion over some of the concepts of the regulation that we're talking about, and probably one of the first ones is, is this particular amendment deals with who pays for it. Senator Landis, you said that this was a user pays method of funding, and so my question is, is this method of funding, is it spread across all of the natural gas customers across the state of Nebraska, or are there some exceptions to that?