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SENATOR PREISTER: A budget issue is far less severe, has far fewer consequences, far less ramifications than what this would have. I think I'm going to have to press my light because I want to make a comment about Senator Stuhr's comment. I have some information that may be a little different than what she has. But my point is, I hope people are listening because this is a serious policy decision. We're transferring a nuclear reactor operating license to a private company, not a nonprofit. This is a LLC. This is a company outside of our jurisdiction that will own the operating license of a public power utility's nuclear reactor. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I guess I just wanted to clarify, for the legislative members, this facility is public power, and it's owned by the public, and will continue to be owned by the public. No question about that. I, you know, I relate that in regard to myself. I own land and I have somebody else farm it, but they don't own it. I still have control of it. I still own it. Even though somebody else may manage it, they may raise crops on it, and they manage it, they are in charge of it, but I still own it. I still have control of it. Same issue here, the public owns the nuclear plant, will continue to own it. Somebody else will manage it, hopefully, and generally the purpose of doing a better job than has been done. I will acknowledge to Senator Preister and those who have spoken that certainly a number of options have been looked at. A great deal of time was spent with the two power companies trying to come to some kind of agreement. Unfortunately, it never happened, and it appears it would never happen, and that's why, in order to make the plant continue to operate...and you have to remember this plant serves 91 counties in the state. In order to keep this plant operating, something had to be done. The management, it was to the point where it was one of the worst...had the lowest rating of any other public power institute, or nuclear power institution in the United States. Something had to be done, and this board has been striving diligently, coming up with some kind of response in