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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Bromm, on the Schrock amendment to LB 367.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you very much, Mr. President. And I wasn't able to participate yesterday in the discussion. I listened as best I could, and I've talked to Senator Preister and Senator Beutler off the floor a little bit about this to try to understand it. I do want to remind the body that with respect to the LUST fund, and if it's been said I apologize for repeating it, but it's probably worth it anyway. I remember very well coming to the Legislature after having participated in some Natural Resource hearings with DEQ being told that the LUST fund was doing just fine, and having a letter go out over the weekend to every cleanup site in the state where thousands and thousands of dollars had been invested and projects had been started for cleanup telling them all to stop because we had no money. Just overnight, we had no money. I've got a site two blocks from my office in Wahoo where they spent somewhere around \$50,000 to get the air stripping facilities constructed, got the hole in the ground, just barely got it started pumping, and that was eight years ago, and it hasn't pumped since. And so that terrific amount of pollution under the ground I think has probably moved on. If it hasn't, it's in the process. But...so I will say that DEQ then underwent, with oversight from the Legislature, and as a result of some program evaluation work of this Legislature, a great deal of change in management of that fund and adopted some procedures such as risk-based corrective action and things that has been very helpful in, I think, using the money more wisely. I also will remind us that last year in our budget problems, we took \$10 million out of this fund. And I will also remind us that as Senator Schrock indicated that according to the projections, if everything stays normal into 2008, that fund will be out of money. The projected cleanup obligations are \$183,800,000. Now we're not going to have that much money to work with, but...and prices go up, but that's the projected obligation as we know it today. That's an estimate, of course. I would like to ask Senator Schrock a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, will you yield to a question from Senator Bromm.