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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 65

should there be questions, since he didn't actually attend the hearing, because he was introducing his own bill in another committee, it would probably be better to direct the questions to me on the bill, the committee amendments, or the subsequent amendment, or the process that we undertook. I will just mention that the bill and the committee amendment was advanced unanimously from the Natural Resources Committee, and that the Power Review Board, the Nebraska Power Association, and everyone has come to agreement on the final amendment that we will get to. With that, I would conclude the opening on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. You've heard the opening on LB 65. Senator Schrock, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, you're recognized to open on the committee amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments strike the original provisions of the bill, but maintain the purpose of the bill. The amendments would allow any generation of less than 10,000 kilowatts, if it occurs through the use of solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, methane gas, or hydropower technology, or emerging technologies such as fuel cells and "microturbines," to be exempt from the application process of the Nebraska Power Review Board. I will urge you to adopt the committee amendments. And the next two amendments, AM0378 and AM0695, will be withdrawn. I would then encourage you to adopt Senator Preister's amendment, AM1768. Senator Preister, the Power Review Board, and the electric utility companies have reached an agreement as to how to proceed to accomplish the purposes outlined in Senator Preister's original bill. I'd like to thank the Speaker for making a Speaker priority bill. I commend Senator Preister for bringing the bill to us. I would just explain a little bit to you, this is for smaller projects of 10,000 kilowatts or less. And I always have to ask, what's 10,000 kilowatts? Well, the windmills out here that LES has, they're 660 kilowatts. So it would take about 15 of them to be 10,000 kilowatts. The hydro plants that...Central runs three of them on their irrigation canals, they run about 18 megawatts. The hydro plant at Lake McConaughy is 50 megawatts. About 5 to 6 percent in the