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SENATOR JANSSEN: ...that you...thank you.

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

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. This has been a very challenging issue. And as Senator Schrock said, it has been before the committee for three years now. A year ago, these metropolitan areas--it isn't limited to just these three cities, but it's the whole area that is required to manage storm water runoff. And currently in Omaha we have not separated our sanitary sewers--I always get a kick out of that term, "sanitary sewer"--we have not separated those sewers from the sewers that carry the storm water runoff. We also have construction sites that have storm water run through them and carry soil and other things off of the construction sites into sewers or into creeks. We have parking lots that carry large amounts of water directly into the sewer systems. These kinds of runoff situations are considered by the federal EPA and the Clean Water Act as nonpoint sources of discharge. They're not a specific pipe that discharges into a water body and contaminates the water body from that specific pipe or discharge. The point source, the pipe kind of approach, was a phase one of the Clean Water Act, and we have been working on that for probably ten years or longer. Now the federal EPA, in carrying out the tenets of the Clean Water Act, says, we need to move into another phase; we need to deal with all of these other nonpoint sources of potential contamination. The antifreeze that lands on a parking lot, the oil that lands on a parking lot, any other kind of contaminant that's on that parking lot is going to get into the storm water and it's going to run directly into our water bodies. We're requiring cities, counties, states, essentially, to carry out the tenets of dealing with these nonpoint sources. Thus, we get a mandate that required that last year already the cities had to apply for a permit to carry out these requirements. A year ago they had to get the permit and begin this process. So the cities are going well beyond what they needed to do in the past. They're having to deal with expansion of existing programs, not just what they were doing, but additional things. Six of the requirements of these unfunded mandates, as we frequently call them, are, one, public education