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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, you know, if we stop and look at who is responsible for the waste that is going to go into these repositories, I am assuming that a lot of that will be coming from the power industry--tools, rags, low-level radioactive material. Now, if I'm wrong, I hope someone corrects me, but that is the type of product that will...we will be storing in these facilities. You know, and a \$5 surcharge on a power bill, to me, isn't that bad. I pay some high power bills in my business and at my home. If I was low-income, which fortunately I'm not, then I could get some relief. According to Senator Beutler, the Power Review Board would be looking at that and seeing who would be eligible for that...for that type of a reduction in this surcharge. And this has been mentioned several times during this debate, but we do enjoy some of the lowest power rates of anyone anywhere in the world, and we are so dependent on power in this state, and thank goodness we do have public power. But when there comes a time for depositing the type of waste which is created by these electric generators, then we have to address that issue. And I understand that when the site was selected in Boyd County there was an uprising by the people in the area, and I don't believe that they were...they were educated to the point of what type of material was really going to be stored in that facility. It's something that, yes, it can be dangerous, but it is very low-level. It's not like putting something out of a nuclear bomb into a facility. As I mentioned, it is tools, things of that nature that have been exposed to radiation. And even with that surcharge, we would still be enjoying some of the lowest rates anywhere in the country. And there is a safeguard. There is a safeguard, or there will be, for those people who can't pay that extra surcharge. So, you know, you're looking at, if you've got a \$100 a month light bill, that's \$5 extra dollars. And if you are low-income, if you're a farmer and don't make any money, then I think that could be argued that...to the board that you should have some relief. When Senator Redfield had this idea in the Revenue Committee, I told her I would support that because I thought that was...this was from whence come you. This is where the waste is coming from, so that industry should be able to collect a surcharge to take care of that. And I believe, if I'm...if I'm not misunderstanding this, that some of the money that is owed would be to the power companies, because