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FLOOR DEBATE

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interpreted the language of the legislation in a way that Fremont did not fall under the cap. The language establishing the cap may not have been as clear as it should have been, although the intent was clear that the Fremont electric plant was under that cap. LB 94 clarifies the definition of these facilities for the purposes of the cap. It makes it clear that cities that were originally intended to be eligible for that cap are eligible for the cap now. Because the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has been charging Fremont emission fees under the cap, LB 94 should not affect the department's revenue from these emission fees. It will stay the same. It just clarifies the language in the statute to leave them under the cap. With that, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. You've heard the opening on LB 94. Open for discussion. Senator Preister, followed by Senator Schrock.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President, friends all. I rise to give a little information to the body. I'll start with an adage you may have heard. We can live for four weeks without any food, without...or until we get to a point where it's going to severely affect us. We can live for about four days without water. But we can only go about four minutes without air before it starts impacting us in a negative health way. This legislation deals with air quality and the quality of the air that we breathe in Nebraska. I don't know how many of you know, but currently there is 122,141 pounds...I'm sorry, tons of air pollutants that only our utilities, our coal-fired utilities, put into our Nebraska air. Over 122,000 tons of pollutants that they're putting into our air. And this has increased just in the last four years, from 76,000 tons. When this cap was initially proposed, I didn't like the cap. I didn't like the idea of the cap. And I had a dialogue with Senator Janssen about what those three utilities were going to do to reduce their emissions into our air. Senator Janssen read a list of things that they were going to do. They were rather general and vague, in my opinion. That's no disparagement to Senator Janssen. He was just relating what the utilities gave to him. However, since that time, we have not seen a reduction. In fact, they have increased by 50 percent. That's not what we