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FLOOR DEBATE

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now. I think this bill is appropriate. If any committee members would like to also respond, I would welcome that. But Senator Janssen has brought us a reasonable bill. And I think you also probably support it. But I think your remarks are to be noted. I commend you for doing that. But I would ask this body to move forward and put this bill on Select File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Mr. Clerk, for an announcement, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Stuhr would like to announce that there will be an Executive Session of the Retirement Committee at 11:00 this morning under the north balcony. That's Retirement, 11:00, under the north balcony.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. On with discussion of LB 94, Senator Preister, followed by Senator Janssen.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President, friends all. I appreciate your comments, Senator Schrock. And I certainly think that the Natural Resources Committee has been looking at this issue in a sense of fairness to the utilities. And with two of the medium-sized utilities not having to pay the additional fee being under the cap, it probably is fair that they're all treated equally. I don't fault that, and I am not criticizing that. The point of my comments are that we have these huge amounts of emissions going into our state. We do have public power and we do have low-cost electricity, but there's a cost to that, and that cost that's low-cost does not factor in all the healthcare cost, all the environmental cost, all of what's termed externalities. And so when we factor in the total cost of electricity, I'd like to see all those costs factored in. We have an asthma problem in Nebraska. Nebraska has the second-highest leading cause of death from asthma of any state in the union. If in fact our air is so clean, why do we here in the middle of the country have so much asthma? I'm not saying that all of that is attributable to our utilities. I like public power. I'm a champion of public power. I have stood on the side of public power, and wanted to keep public power when others have talked about selling it off and deregulating it. But as much as I'm a supporter of public