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FLOOR DEBATE

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power, I don't see public power doing enough with renewable energy. We have approximately half a percent, half a percent of our electricity generated in this state coming from renewable energy. We can do better than that. Our utilities can do better than that. Six...we are the sixth leading capacity state for wind generation in the nation. The states all around us, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, other states, are rapidly advancing in putting up wind turbines and using renewable energy. Nebraska can do better than that. We don't have to keep putting 122,000 tons of pollutants just from our seven coal-fired power plants. And these figures, by the way, I got from NDEQ just this morning. So these aren't my figures. The figures I got were from DEQ, based on the monitoring that was done. We don't need to keep increasing at a rate of almost 10,000 tons a year of pollutants into our air. We don't need to continue to affect our children and our water bodies. I said I would talk about the PCBs, the utilities being one of the contributors to the PCB contaminants. We have the big Nemaha River that's contaminated and has an advisory on it. Carter Lake, Elkhorn River, Jeffrey Reservoir, Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, the Loup River Canal. Irrigation comes out of that canal. We're putting PCBs on our irrigated crops. Midway Canyon Reservoir, Missouri River, Papillion Creek, West Papillion Creek, Platte River, Salt Creek, South Platte River, Sutherland Outlet Canal, Sutherland Reservoir. These are water bodies that we have tested and we know there are contaminants in from PCBs and mercury. We don't have the money to test all the water bodies in the state. We're woefully underfunded in testing water, and we know that there are more water bodies that are impaired, but we don't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...have the money to test them. Because of that, this is a limited list. It's only the ones that we know about. Mr. President, did you say time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR PREISTER: Oh, thank you.