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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 139

have an amendment to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 139.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill was brought to us by the public power industry. The following constitutes the reason for this bill, and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby. LB 139 allows any public power district, corporation, or municipality that engages in the generation or transmission of both...or both, of electric energy for the sale to the public for light and power purposes, to produce, store, or distribute hydrogen for the use in fuel processes. I say it again. It allows them to produce and store or distribute hydrogen for the use in fuel processes. The production and utilization of hydrogen is expected to become an important new source of energy for the future. Electricity production may be one of the important processes used to produce hydrogen. The public power industry in Nebraska is positioned to play a significant role in the emergence of a hydrogen economy that will likely emerge as society looks for ways to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. In the processes of making electricity, public power or power generation creates a lot of hydrogen. And I'm told this is especially true in the nuclear plants. And then the hydrogen can be used to run fuel cells. It's new technology. And public power always has to bring their issues to the legislative floor if they're going to do something new. It's called Dillon's Rule--you can't do it unless it's expressly permitted in statute. And so that's why the bill was brought to us. It makes a lot of sense. I don't think this has anything to do with anything else, and I think it's very simple. It allows public power to utilize, store, and produce hydrogen, and to see how that might play into our future energy uses. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Mr. Clerk, a motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schrock would move to amend his bill with AM0647. (Legislative Journal pages 652-653.)