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January 25, 2006 LB 32, 508

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 32 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 508, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 508, introduced by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time January 14 of last year, referred to the Natural Resources Committee. The committee reported the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, to open on LB 508.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Just a moment, Mr. President. Mr. President, we don't find committee amendments. We think it's...is there a mistake there?

SENATOR CUDABACK: There are no committee amendments, Senator.

SENATOR SCHROCK: All right, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You bet. You're recognized to open on LB 508.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's me again. I'm back. (Laugh) I will open on this bill and I think it's a very straightforward bill. In 1994, the Legislature established the Water Well Decommissioning Fund in the Natural Resources Commission. The purpose of this fund was to assist the natural resource districts with accelerating the decommissioning of illegal wells in the state of Nebraska to protect ground water from contamination. The program is a cost-share program, funded by a combination of state fees on well registration and local natural resource districts property tax fund. This program has helped pay the cost of having licensed well drillers properly decommission more than 1,000 abandoned wells every year. This fund does not generate money from your sales and income tax. There's a \$3 fee every time you drill a well--domestic, livestock, irrigation, whatever--and then the natural resource districts cost-share on that. Currently, the formula for distribution to the districts is based on the percentage of the number of illegal wells