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FLOOR DEBATE

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We heard testimony from people from the South Sioux City area. We heard testimony from the people building the ethanol plant. This is very natural. It's a good example of an environmental use of a product that's generally wasted. The fuel can be used to help with the...to offset fuel costs that it takes to produce the ethanol, and I think it's a very good project. And I commend Senator Engel and the people from northeast Nebraska for this project and for working on it, and the Natural Resources Committee was very glad to accommodate their concerns. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments to LB 776. Open for discussion. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Preister.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, what a great idea this is and I commend the folks from South Sioux City that have the initiative to go ahead and start something like this. I don't know how many of you realize, but the land...Douglas County Landfill right now has a methane gas capturing that will run a generator. It produced enough electricity to run a town of 800-900 people from that one tap that they have in the landfill in Douglas County. Methane gas is highly combustible. It will generate just about anything, but in this state and with the power infrastructure that we have with our public power, we're able to do a lot of these things that other states don't have the ability to do. Yard waste is all over, and I think that by capturing this yard waste you're going to have something that will generate methane at a faster pace rather than at the landfill in Douglas County. There's all kinds of waste in there but which still does produce the gas, but this will act a lot faster. I remember, as a young child, when we used to cut corn and sorghum and put it in a silage pile, the gas that would accumulate in there and made that hay and sorghum into a very good feed for our cattle, but that also was producing methane gas. Anything that is stored that will ferment like that will make that gas. And thank you, Senator Engel. I'm sure the people of South Sioux City are going to benefit from this bill and other communities should be looking at an alternative to the fossil fuel that we're so dependent on, and this would make us a little more