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FLOOR DEBATE

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probably couldn't lower emission standards. So I think this is probably a program where you're going to penalize the higher emitters and give them incentives to come down, where if we didn't have the cap and trade program, I would guess the federal regulations, they could not bring down the emission standard, but that's...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You mean, the...

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...or they could, but it would be very difficult for people to meet it, and then all of a sudden, we've got people paying high prices for electricity and so on and so forth.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this state program were not in place,...Mr. President, I will continue next time I'm recognized. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, politicians make decisions only under pressure from the electorate, or because their campaign machinery is being oiled by contributions from big spenders, lobbyists, special interest groups. If a company is emitting pollutants into the air, that company should have the screws applied and be required to reduce those emissions, so that the air quality overall is improved. If instead of doing that you simply create a shell game, or a shifting of who is going to be allowed to do this without penalty, then the overall air quality is not improved. So I need to ask Senator Schrock a question on that score.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, would you...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, is the purpose of these programs to reduce the pollutants in the air and improve the quality of air for the citizens? Is that what the purpose of all this is?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's what I would surmise, Senator Chambers.