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February 13, 2006 LB 872

SENATOR SCHROCK: I'll try to listen better, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll try to be more clear when I state it. Are you telling me that when the federal rules and regulations change, Nebraska's law will automatically change to incorporate those changes that occur at the federal level?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No, our laws will not automatically change.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then, we're on the same page. I did not make myself clear. If the federal government raises, through their regulations, the amount of pollutants that can be emitted, that will not automatically result in a raise in Nebraska's law. We would have to alter our law to incorporate those higher levels of pollutants.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. But what Nebraska wants to do is not make...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your time is up, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion on advancement of LB 872? Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, I will make a couple comments and then yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers, if he so wishes. Mercury is kind of an elusive thing. There's a lot of mercury found naturally in our streams and in the elements that we deal with. Mercury is a by-product when you burn coal. It's a problem. It's something we need to deal with. It's something I think that the federal people are dealing with and the EPA is dealing with, and that's why we have these type of programs. Unfortunately, a lot of the fallout we have in mercury in this country is because of a dirty environment in Asia, that gets carried over in the wind, and when it rains it falls on our