TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 13, 2006 LB 872

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if Nebraska had a group of policymakers in sufficient numbers, a more stringent standard controlling pollutants could be imposed within the state of Nebraska?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I think I heard you say that to do so might result in higher rates to people for their electricity or whatever form of power is produced through the burning of coal or any other polluting element.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I didn't say that, but you're reading my mind. You're very correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I'm not reading your mind. I think you actually suggested that. I don't want to take from you credit that is not due me. So the public is being presented with this choice: Clean up the environment to a greater extent than is the case now, and perhaps pay higher rates for the product produced by the polluters; or give the polluters slack, let them contaminate the environment, and perhaps your rates might be slightly lower that you pay for the power produced by the polluters. That's the choice that would face the public, if they were going to be asked to make a choice; is that correct?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I think that's fair enough, Senator Chambers. I would agree with that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You are a knowledgeable person in both areas, when it comes to the polluting—and not that you're doing it—and the paying of rates for the power that you consume. Asking you the question, if you're willing to answer it, would you prefer to have more stringent regulating of the pollutants released by the polluters, with the possibility of paying a little more for the power you consume, or would you rather allow the polluters to continue doing what they're doing, and that possibly results in a lower rate that you pay for the power that you consume? Which do you prefer?