

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

February 13, 2006 LB 872

that's outside of this Chamber, we have the capacity to generate far more than we're putting turbines up to harness. Nebraska has long used the wind to harness energy, and I appreciate NPPD doing that farm, and I have a bill to provide some incentives to further develop that. But we do have a mercury emissions problem in the state. We have water bodies that we tell people, don't eat the fish from. We do need to do something. Is this the best approach? Of the options we have, I've decided to go along with this, because I don't right now see that we can do a whole lot better, although possibly we could. But Senator Chambers' points are well taken. We need to have reductions, and I think we should have them faster than what we're doing, and when you're adding to the pollution, you should take some responsibility. I appreciate the dialogue, and at this point, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers, if he would like it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Preister. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can kind of wrap up now what it is that I would like to say. Senator Preister has done a lot of work since he has been here, as has Senator Beutler and Senator Schrock, in dealing with matters pertaining to the environment, each according to his own approach and philosophy. I have watched developments, and some of them have been good, some so-so, and others are moving in a right direction, but not nearly as quickly. And as long as we have programs of the kind that is being discussed in this bill, there is not, to my way of thinking, much likelihood that there will be the substantial decrease in pollution that Senator Schrock says represents the target amount. If you could reduce pollution by 75 percent in the period of time Senator Schrock mentioned, that is substantive. That is worthy of being accorded great significance. But this is also an area governed, not by science, not by what can be feasibly done, given the state of technological advancement, but rather what special interest groups will allow politicians to do. If just once, when dealing with an issue of such import to the public, politicians could determine what the ideal ought to be and then work toward that, instead of starting with what the special interest groups and