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FLOOR DEBATE

February 14, 2006 LB 818

the debate. And please examine the material that I've handed out.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on AM2299 to LB 818. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Preister would move to amend with FA443. (Legislative Journal page 660.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister, you're recognized to open on FA443 to AM2299. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I expressed earlier concern about this particular amendment. My concern has a number of aspects to it: One, the safety of what will be coming out of the stacks and what will go into our air and we will end up with our lungs filtering, some of which are very heavy metals and very hazardous materials. Senator Schrock says that he believes that burning tires is safe and it's a good disposal method. I believe in his sincerity in thinking that, but he has gotten his information, as likely Senator Wehrbein has, from a company with a vested interest in convincing them of that safety. There are residents who live in the area who don't think that same way, and who have looked at this issue and the burning of other hazardous material as something that is of grave concern to them, because they and their families who live in the immediate area have the most to lose, and the most impact will be upon them. So the health and safety, which I will get into more, is probably my primary concern here. And we know from the test burn that there are more emissions that come from the tires of a number of heavy metals and very hazardous materials that, from the test burn that was done, exceed what would be emitted if just coal were burned. That's a concern to me. If we're going to allow these funds to go to burn tires and we're going to subsidize it, please understand that there's a distinction here between a permit for burning of tires and the state giving grant monies to subsidize the burning of tires. And this amendment essentially allows NDEQ to tap into the Scrap Tire Fund and, in my view take, according to the amendment, at least one-fourth of the entire fund for burning tires,