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February 21, 2006 LB 872

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Schrock, if I could just ask one or two questions, I just want to make it perfectly clear that...what your amendment does. I would simply note again that on page 8, the pertinent paragraph that is included here says that the Environmental Council shall adopt and promulgate rules, "shall" adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for air pollution control, which shall include...and then and then we go over to the language you're amending, which would then read, provisions for implementation of any emissions trading programs, as defined by the department. Now when you say "as defined by the department," the department is going to be responding to the Environmental Council, correct?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, will you yield?

SENATOR SCHROCK: The council will be responding to the department.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. But the council has to approve anything the department does, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: The council does rules and regs, and the department has to follow those rules and regs.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right. So under your amendment, if the council and the department choose not to have an emissions trading program for a particular pollutant, they may choose to do so, even though the federal government allows it; is that correct?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's the intent of your amendment, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So even though it says elsewhere that they shall have rules and regulations, they can choose which pollutants they will have an emissions trading program for?