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FLOOR DEBATE

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that we're going to bring these emissions down, with no intention of doing so. Administrations at the federal level have lied to the public before. But I want to get back to what's happening in Nebraska. Each polluter...I'm going to ask it as a question. Is each polluter assigned a maximum amount of polluting that can be done without penalty?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, it's an allowance that they are allowed, so they're allowed up to a certain number.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And if that polluter has reached that polluter's maximum number, the only purpose in trading or buying from a low polluter is to be able to exceed that number; isn't that true? Otherwise, there's no point in it.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and if the low polluter is not using all of the allowed pollution authority, it means that we're going to have a greater amount of mercury pollution with the enactment of this law than we have now, because the high polluter cannot go above the maximum. But with this bill, the high polluter can go above that number, and the low polluter is not using all the polluting that it's allowed to do. So that's why I wanted to assign them numbers. The high polluter's maximum level is 100; that's the number. The low polluter is allowed 100, too, also, but is only polluting 20. So that means the low polluter has 80 that it can sell or make available to the high polluter. And if that deal is struck between the high polluter and the low polluter, we now have 200 as the level of mercury pollution that's taking place, if that deal is struck. That deal can be struck only if this bill passes. Without this bill, the low polluter puts 20 out there; the high polluter puts 100, and the total comes to 120. If the high polluter wants to go beyond that, the high polluter can buy 80 from the low polluter and add that to its 100 and wind up with 180. And when you put all of that together, you now have 200 as the number designating the amount of pollution, rather than 120. Do you follow what I'm trying to say?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I am, Senator Chambers.