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FLOOR DEBATE

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legislatures to obtain slack, so that they can continue to pollute. A small polluter wouldn't have that muscle. As a result, we wouldn't have bills of this kind at the state or federal level. So it is the big polluter, the ones who are endangering the public's health, who want to be able to pollute more for a period of time, with the expectation that during the period from today and whatever date has been established down the road to require the bringing down of these emissions, they will be allowed to pollute a lot more. Maybe they will burn more coal, produce more of their product, because other than the utilities are burning coal, and make a lot of profit during that period before they're going to be required to bring down their emissions. I think that this is a fast shuffle, not by Senator Schrock. Well, yeah, he's the instrumentality, but this was engineered someplace else. There are guys sitting around with big...and for Senator Brown's information, Cuban, "Cooban" cigars. They wear big suits, because they have big girths, and they determine what's going to happen in this country to everybody. Do you think they care if little children develop "resPIRatory" problems, or as some people would say, "RESpiratory" problems? Do they care how many children who may have asthma now may have that condition aggravated? How many elderly people? They don't care about any of that. And when these bills come up, legislatures become so concerned about the inconvenience to the big polluters, without looking at why pollution is to be reduced. If it were not a health hazard, it wouldn't matter at all, and it wouldn't be called pollution. If it's a health hazard, how can we say, as a Legislature, that we're tending to the interests of the public, when we're putting in place a program designed to allow the biggest polluters to continue to pollute. And the way they do it is to purchase slack, or indulgences, if you will, from the nonpolluters or the lesser polluters. But the net effect is more pollution than existed before this bill. Without this bill, the big polluter cannot exceed his or her limit, without cost. With this bill, the...

SPEAKER BRASHEAR PRESIDING

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: One minute.