

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

March 1, 2006

LB 872

amendment was the committee amendment, which made some modifications to the bill. And following that, I just substituted, because I needed to change the name from the Environmental...the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to the Environmental Quality Council. What the bill and amendment in its current form do is to provide a financial benefit for renewable energy producers. It allows producers of new generation of renewable energy to claim a tax credit which may be used to reduce the income tax liability or to obtain a refund of state sales and use taxes for the producer. The tax credit is calculated on each kilowatt-hour of electricity generated from a renewable energy resource at the following rates: .075 cents before January 1 of 2010; .05 cents after January 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2013; and .025 cents after January 1, 2013 and before January 1, 2018. Eligible renewable energy sources include wind, moving water, solar, geothermal, fuel cell, methane gas, or photovoltaic technology. The committee amendment added a total cap. It is spread out over a total of 16 years, so it's capped and ended, and averaged out, it would be approximately \$34,000 a year, a very small fiscal note. The current fiscal note that's on the bill is excessive and inappropriate to the original bill even, but just in terms of looking at it financially, it would average only \$34,000 a year. If there are questions, I'd be happy to entertain them. I believe Senator Schrock, the committee, is okay with it, and I don't know of any opposition. There were no opposition testifiers in the hearing, as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. You've heard the opening on AM2550 of Senator Preister. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, I commend Senator Preister for bringing this amendment. It should help on the...it's an incentive for renewable energy. I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you, Senator Preister, for bringing the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Further discussion? Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Would Senator Preister yield for a question, please?