

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2006

LR 259

CLERK: LR 259CA. No Enrollment and Review. Senator Beutler, FA665.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

CLERK: Senator Cudaback, I'd withdraw FA665.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend, AM3045. (Legislative Journal pages 1390-1392.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment, AM3045, to LR 259CA.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I hope that my explanation will be given in such a way that it will engage your mind and hold your attention, because it is very serious, it is a solemn matter that is being addressed, and Senator McDonald has a proposal which should make it through this body and be placed on the ballot. There is no intent on my part or on the part of anybody else who would support this proposed amendment to harm Senator McDonald's underlying constitutional proposal. The last time we discussed this bill, there was much...I may as well say controversy, swirling around the use of money that the Environmental Trust Fund would have, and whether or not it should be available for use by the Legislature to meet various funding shortfalls. Some people use the term "raiding the fund," others, "plundering the fund." I will employ the term, "using," "borrowing from," or "taking from." What this amendment would do is not take the Legislature completely out of making use of this fund. So I'm going to read the language. This money shall be transferred to a fund...we're talking about lottery funds, by the way, how they'll be distributed...to a fund to be used for the purpose of conserving, enhancing, and restoring the natural physical and biological environment of Nebraska, and for related administrative costs. A board shall be appointed, as directed by the Legislature, which board shall manage the fund authorized in this subdivision, as directed by the Legislature, except that