

May 8, 1995

LB 429

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Wehrbein, is this the...the fee and the fund that's necessitated by the federal requirements that we comply with the Federal Clean Air Act by later this year, by October or November of 1995?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, and is this the...is this also the program that DEQ is having to hire a number of more people to go to work to administer this program, like...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Ten.

SENATOR BROMM: ...like ten new people? And are these...are these going to be additional staff members at DEQ or are they shifting staff from other areas in DEQ into this section of work?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: They're shifting from other sections.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, so the net...the net number of people that will be working then will remain the same after the implementation of this act?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And you don't have to answer this, but I...from my understanding is if we don't comply with the implementation of this act we stand to lose our federal highway funds. Have you heard that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I do not know that answer.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I may be misinformed, but upon inquiry with the DEQ a few weeks ago on this point and also I guess upon inquiry with a couple of our federal representatives offices, I was advised that if we didn't implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act by October or November of this year and put these people on staff that we would stand to be penalized through the...through all federal funds including highway funds, which to me is incredible if that's true. And one of the reasons that I...that I think this is so...I'm not...I'm not against the amendments and let me make that clear, but what I am...what I am against is another example