

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Vickers, then Senator Clark, and then Senator Murphy. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members of the body, first of all, I complement Senator Fowler, Senator Wesely, and Senator Warner on their introduction of this piece of legislation. I think it's a step forward, but the amendment that they're attempting to put on it now is a half a step backward again. Many of these small generating facilities in the smaller communities, as they wear out, and need to be replaced, I'll submit to you probably shouldn't be replaced. The people making the decision on the local level are city councilmen, and they're many times not very knowledgeable as far as power is concerned, so they base their decision on some expert's opinion that they have hired...an engineer of some sort, and the opinion that they get, many times, might be biased because of the fact that possibly he might have in the past worked for some company that's selling motors or generation facilities. Not only that, but these small plants are by and large natural gas users on an interruptible source, which means that during the winter many times they're having to burn fuel oil, which runs the cost up considerable, and it just seems to me that if we're going to say to the generation facilities of this state that they should be assessed by the Power Review Board, this should mean all of the generating facilities of this state. And I urge the members of this body to oppose this amendment, and let's go ahead and take that full step forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark, and then Senator Murphy.

SENATOR CLARK: Well, Mr. President and members, I'm kind of on the opposite side of this one. The reason I am, I think that Senator Fowler brought one that I can support. If you'll notice in your bill book, I voted against bringing this bill out on the floor because of the fact this amendment was not on it. I believe in local control. I've sat on a city council, and no one is going to tell me that they're going to replace a generating plant if it's going to cost three or four cents to generate, when they can buy it for a cent and a half. There is no way they're going to do that. They can make their own assessment. What all these smaller towns are afraid of is, the Power Review Board will say, no, you cannot put a replacement unit in whether you have one, two, or three units, you cannot replace one, and if you have three units and one of them goes down, the other two are just not big enough to do the job. Consequently, you're going to have to buy from NPPD or someone else. That's the reason that I wanted this in there in the first place, and I do commend Senator