

March 26, 1979

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wish to file an action against the Department of Agriculture to stop the awarding of those grants based upon my decision. Under section 6 we provide that there shall be review process of the applications and provide the methods whereby we review those processes. Section 7 provides for a resource statement which includes: some reform, plans, working drawings, the entire model of the facility that shall represent the plant when it is completed. Under section 8 it provides that the Department of Economic Development shall hold hearings within ten days after the application deadline to determine which applicants are qualified to receive the contracts under section 1 of this act. It says the Department of Economic Development shall inform the Legislature's Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Ag Products, Industrial and Utilization Committee when such hearings shall take place. Section 9 provides the method whereby the Department of Economic Development shall determine who shall receive the grants. It also provides that the construction process then must be completed within twenty-four months as amended by this Legislature. Section 10 provides that within ten days of the hearing the Department of Economic Development, subject to approval by the Legislature and the Governor, shall reach a decision relative to who shall receive the approval of the department. Section 11 provides for the creation of a special fund in the highway trust fund that shall be used to pledge the bonds of the subdivision of government. Now I want to point out that at this time we are having bond counsel review the language of this bill so that there will be no problem in marketing the bonds so that we can be assured the bonds will be marketable and hopefully thereby reduce to zero the amount of actual dollars that will be invested by the State of Nebraska in a plant. Under this fund which is set aside that may be possible that for a period of time some of the funds may be needed to meet the obligations incurred by the subdivision but those funds then can be returned to that fund. The plant, once it is paid for, then becomes the property of the state to be operated or to be sold or to be handled in whatever manner determined by the State of Nebraska and, of course, that means by this Legislature. I think the bill is a step in the right direction. I think the bill is probably five years late. I apologize for that but I think that we have given private industry every opportunity for eight years to construct these plants. We could have done so four or five years ago for much less investment but as we all know things have changed drastically in the last four or five years but so has the need for this type of an operation. There are going to be those who will be concerned about the fact