

in fact, they didn't think they were responsible. It attempts to set in some...in the statute some language to give them some guidance as to what responsible is. All of the public power districts that testified at the hearing were in favor of this language. They seemed to think that this would, in fact, give the directors a little bit more authority as far as rejecting low bids if for some reason or other it would appear that the low bid was probably not in the best interest of the district. The best example I guess that I can give is what took place at Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland, Nebraska, and I think that many people were aware or had become aware that there was, in fact, a problem with Unit I, and I think if this language had been in the statutes at that point in time a lot of that problem wouldn't have come about and that the total amount of dollars expended would not have been nearly as much. The rest of LB 34 is simply language that I think is important to make certain that the board of directors are aware and it is set in statute that they are responsible for dollars expended. That is the intent of Section 4 of the bill. And, again, there was no opposition from the districts. Most of those directors I think feel that they are responsible already but I just think it is important that we clarify and make certain that they are, in fact, responsible and are, in fact, aware of all monies expended by the districts. I would just in closing mention the fact that as rates go higher in this state and obviously they are going to with energy costs getting higher and higher, the concern of the rate payer or the concern of the general public is going to increase right along with those rates and if we as the Legislature put in all the help that we can in the statutes in regard to the directors and their responsibilities, it seems to me that will be a help in the end. I would urge the body's adoption of LB 34.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is the advance of LB 34 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and LB 34 is advanced to E & R Initial. Do you want to read some stuff in? Go ahead.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may briefly intercede. New bill, LB 273A, offered by Senator DeCamp. (Read title to LB 273A for the first time.)