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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: High-cost...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...subscribers.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...high-cost areas.

SENATOR BEUTLER: High-cost areas, right.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Most the high-cost areas will probably be in the more rural areas just because of the economies of the infrastructure, right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Now, with regard to that particular subsidy, which is far and away the highest one, is there any means testing whatsoever?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: No, that...that determination is made on cost, what the true costs are,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...and then we're going to argue over what cost is, but it's not means tested of the subscribers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Tell me why it should not be means tested at the subscribers then, because it's a subsidy any way you look at it.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: But it's...the concept would be that it's not really designed to be an assistance program. It's designed to, when you take access fees and move from a monopoly system, you're looking at companies and not necessarily individuals at that point in time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's a way of characterizing it, but the bottom line of it is to make individuals be able to afford a service, which is...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...no different than Lifeline. And, yet, we means test the one, but we don't means test the other.