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FLOOR DEBATE

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OPPD has sold all of their dark fiber so they're not going to contribute anything, any money, to this fund that's going to be distributed statewide, so that means that everybody in Omaha and everybody in southeast Nebraska and everybody who's in OPPD's district will not contribute one penny to this Enhancement Fund. One-half of the state essentially escapes any payment to this Enhancement Fund. We have NPPD. They may contribute, in which case the money essentially is going back to their ratepayers, because we know from the structuring of the fund that the money is going to go to the rural areas for rural Internet, and that's fine. So then we have LES, who's going to contribute to this fund. All the ratepayers in Lincoln will contribute to the fund if LES sells dark fiber, but with no help in supporting the Enhancement Fund, no help in supporting rural Internet development from any place in Omaha, from any place in Papillion or LaVista or Elkhorn or any of that metropolitan area that has half the population of the state when you count all of OPPD's district. They will contribute nothing. Tell me what is fair about requiring contributions from LES ratepayers and not from Omaha ratepayers.

SENATOR BROMM: How much time...how much time do I have, Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: About two minutes, Senator.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. If you want part of that back, Senator Beutler, just tell me, or I'll give you some. I did have my light on. Somehow it got turned off I think. Have I spoken three times on this?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One, Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. I had my light on before Senator Beutler got called on to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'll put it back up there, if I turned it off...

SENATOR BROMM: Okay.