

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2001 LB 827

it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay.

SENATOR BROMM: (Laugh) The committee amendments become the bill and the principles that are involved have had a lot of discussion. Our goal is to utilize the excess dark fiber, allow for some public-private partnerships in that respect, clearly allow for the sale of dark fiber, create an Enhancement Fund, provide some grant opportunities for sparsely underserved areas, and I'll go into a little more detail on closing, but I'd ask the body to at least adopt the committee amendments at this point.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. You've heard the closing on adoption of the committee amendments to LB 827. The question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted to LB 827? All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. We are voting on adoption of the committee amendments to LB 827. Have you all voted who care to? Have you all voted? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments are adoption (sic). We're now open for discussion on advancement of LB 827 to E & R Initial. Those wishing to speak, Senator Landis, you're recognized.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I'm going to be voting against the advancement of LB 827. I think the Telecommunications Committee has struggled hard with an intricate and difficult issue. I think they've acted in good faith. I think Senator Bromm has worked very hard on the bill and I commend him for that. I think the compromise that is able to be achieved from entities as powerful as telephone companies represent a concession of so much towards the telephone companies that the bill isn't worth it at this point. I think there is a piece in there that the body would generally acknowledge and that says the prohibition of public entities