

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2001 LB 827

Legislature, I do believe that there has been a considerable amount of coming together and this bill has changed drastically from what occurred in January of this year. If you'll remember that there were bills all over the place dealing with dark fiber. One of the bills included a provision where there would be dark fiber only, providing that there were separate subdivisions, and that you had to have separate companies, separate board of directors, separate monies, all of those. Yes, that would have been very expensive and cumbersome, but it would have protected ratepayers. I still think the ratepayers at this point are protected through this process, so our mission is accomplished in trying to stop the proliferation of these things to the detriment of the companies whose job it is to provide service. There is an amendment that follows this one that I am very serious about which basically says no one can do any more, can't lay fiber unless you go to the Public Service Commission and basically show it's in the public's good. If this amendment, if this compromise amendment is adopted, I will take that amendment out and withdraw it. But I do think that the bill, as it stands with this proposed amendment, represents a good resolution for dark fiber. The fund, I think Senator Beutler was modest, Senator Chambers was modest in the last time they spoke about who gets the money and under what circumstances. In years to come we're going to have to visit that fund because there is not going to be a tremendous amount of money in there. When there is a need to put money into that fund or when there are such monies generated, we're going to have to take a closer look at those sorts of things. I'm sure that we'll do it because quite frankly it's going to need additional legislation to fully implement it. So at this point in time I appreciate the work of the committee and those people who have been opposing the bill and would urge your adoption of this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Raikes, on the amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I have not been supportive of this bill up to this point, but with this amendment I certainly would be. I want to thank Senator Bromm and whoever...all the others who were involved. I think