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FLOOR DEBATE

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when they invested up-front, as opposed to getting back the money in the form of a condemnation payment. Since there are a number of cities out there that don't have natural gas, and natural gas standstill has come to an end, the creation of this contract, I don't think, is a burden that is too great to bear. The market has brought an end to the piping to small towns. By the way, I think Senator Baker's argument is that the threat of condemnation has brought an end to this. I see the world differently. I think it doesn't happen because of the marketplace, I think because the big profits are to send natural gas where there's a lot of people instead of a lot of cost to send it to a very few people. I think the market is the reason. But that's...that's how we see the world differently. This contract is approved by the PSC. It, too, is a contract that would have minimum (inaudible), look,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...a city doesn't have to live with excessive rates, bad service, or unsafe working conditions. And if that's the case, seems to me the contract is legitimate. I'm going to vote for this amendment. I'm going to vote to advance it.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Landis mentioned that several people have sort of addressed the underlying issues, and maybe not the details, and I would certainly be guilty there. But I'm going to express a couple of concerns that I have about the general idea. It seems to me, this bill doesn't say the following: it doesn't say that you have to buy a car from me. What it does say, though, is that you have to buy a car from me unless you can prove that the car I have to offer you is worse than the others that you are being offered. That concerns me. That is not the way we do business. We've got here companies that are monopolies. Now they're regulated monopolies, I understand, but that's not enough. They