

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004 LB 888

care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The amendment has been adopted. Mr. Clerk, next motion before the body.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend with AM2957. (Legislative Journal pages 947-952.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on AM2957 to LB 888.

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm hijacking this bill and that's what this amendment is about. I intend to withdraw it although I'll turn my light on in a minute to let this amendment have a chance to breathe, be discussed, and then withdraw on General File. However, I'm relatively serious about this and I'd like action taken this year if at all possible. Let me tell you what it's about. It's about the gas wars chapter 176. Last year this Legislature passed a system for dealing with natural gas. And a couple of valuable things have happened since then. Aquila came in with a rate increase, went to the PSC, it was studied, a rate was negotiated. The person that was hired by the PSC to evaluate it said, this is a good deal, the state should take it. And at a relatively low cost in relatively quick time, a reasonable, sensible, well-justified rate increase was approved. The bill that we passed last year worked and it worked well in that instance. Let me tell you what also happened between last year and this year. In the no man's land in Sarpy County, MUD reached out and started a facility so that they could expand the areas that they served. Aquila took them to the PSC and said, wait a second, these facilities that they're constructing shouldn't be constructed because they're not the logical provider in this area. And the PSC agreed with Aquila, and MUD, who had already spent I think \$100,000-plus, was told to stop that and take out the facility. This is not a place where the system is working well. We shouldn't be spending money so that then somebody else gets to come in and have a challenge so that we can tell the person who put the money and the investment in