

amendment. Now, if you're squeamish about creating a competitive disadvantage, vote against the Hartnett provision itself. I think there's a rational justification. Natural gas companies, electrical companies have enough presence in this state, they have enough of an investment that if they put their name on the contract, they are going to live up to it. We don't need to have a big capital investment, or capitalization standard for them with respect to this state. For others who are giving service contracts, I would suggest that we do. Now there are different rationales in other portions of this law...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...that justify a series of other exceptions and I can try to do my best to justify those, but don't leave the consumer out to dry. Don't adopt the Withem amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, what started as a fairly simple issue seems to be escalating here. We have got two different pictures of reality, one of Senator David Landis, who has this image of reality out there that people that are in this business of servicing electrical appliances, gas appliances, heating and cooling systems, that this industry is peopled by fly-by-night operators whose only purpose for existence is to bilk the poor unsuspecting public out of their life savings and are on their way to Las Vegas as soon as they get a contract signed, and that the big wonderful regulators of the Department of Insurance are the only thing currently standing between the consumer and ultimate ruin, versus what I hear out in the lobby that they aren't even...bother to regulate any of this stuff anyway. Now I am getting different pictures from different people and I don't know which is the case. If we need regulation, if this is an area where the consumers are being raped on a daily basis and need this grand protection from these evil people, then the consumers need the protection from everybody, and you ought to vote against my amendment, and you ought to vote against the Hartnett amendment. If, on the other hand, what is happening is what my friends out in the lobby are telling me is that nobody is being regulated, that this is something that they aren't...the Department of Insurance isn't even sure was supposed to apply to these particular cases, just became aware of it last year, and said to the utilities, hey, we might have to start regulating in this area if you don't get yourself