

fair and reasonable thing that most public power districts follow right now. In fact, you will find that to be a common practice but NPPD does not adhere to that. They feel that publishing a little notice in a small town newspaper is all that is required under the law. Well, the court said, no, that is not right. So now they are coming back in to change the law so that would be allowed for. Now this is just one example. NPPD is but one entity affected by this, but, clearly, if you are concerned with the people being able to know what is being done to their rates in public power, what is being done in any other public entity in the state, you don't want to adopt this bill. This bill would truly change the standards that we now have which are supposedly set on an individual case by case basis but also supposed to be reasonable efforts to notify the public of what a board or public entity is to do, and so, in my estimation, to proceed with this bill is a serious mistake. I have got a handout from the Lincoln Journal, which did alert me to this problem, and I hope you have had a chance to read it. It is an excellent summary of the situation. It has been responded to by NPPD and Senator Robak has sent out their response, but I truly think their attempt to trivialize the issue is a mistake. It is a big issue. It is a big problem. We haven't had big rate increases lately for the general ratepayers but that can change at any point and they deserve the chance to know when their rates are going up, just as Nucor Steel deserved the right to know when their rates are going up to the tune of something close to \$7 million, of which \$4.4 million was returned to them. That is a big increase and to not have the right to know and right to participate in that decision is wrong. So I would ask your support to kill this legislation. This is the best way to proceed at this time. Unfortunately, we are in that situation. I haven't had a chance to see if there is any compromises or alternatives but certainly this change is unwarranted and unjustified.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Robak, please, on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would like to respond also to Senator Wesely and kind of explain this bill a little bit. I think he is misunderstanding the intent of this bill. LB 628 provides a definition in statute of what constitutes reasonable advance public notice for public bodies under the open meetings law. At present, right now, public bodies must give reasonable notice by