

take. I've agreed to do that. I think that it's in the best interest of the body in terms of time. If we're going to fight, let's fight on Select File. We may have to ultimately agree to disagree after that committee hearing, but I'm willing to...to listen to their side of the story, with the introduction of how they feel it should be handled, and then come back to the body on General File with LB 301, hopefully with a compromise that both sides can live with. But right now, what we need to do is adopt the committee amendments, and then advance the bill. I believe that the proposal as it has been amended, and also as it was introduced, frankly, has much merit, that clearly there are problems out there for these operators who are, as independents, just flat out cannot compete. And part of the reason they cannot compete is because of the cross-subsidization, whether it is real, or perceived. I believe that the way that many of the gas companies are able to purchase these appliances that they are selling the servicing in a bulk form, and in many cases they...it virtually borders on monopoly in the way that they have tied up distributors and manufacturers of certain types of appliances, so that they get regional...state or regional exclusive contracts with these manufacturers to sell and service their appliances, whether they be a furnace, an air conditioner, whether it be a dishwasher, a stove or a refrigerator. These kinds of things take place, and I know that there was concern...at least in the Omaha area because there are some folks who are distributors for these types of appliances. And they said, how is this bill going to affect our relationship, because we happened to sell to gas companies for example.

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: It would not affect those individuals because, in my opinion, the sale would take place if the bill was passed in its original form, the sale would just take place to an independent as opposed to a contractor. Under the amended version, there would be no impact at all, so that relationship would not change. I think the committee amendments are a good approach. I think what I spelled out in terms of our agreement from this point forward makes good sense and I would urge the...the body to support it.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Senator Warner. Just a...I have a few...I have not had an opportunity to look at this bill in any