

great depth, but just listening to the debate, a few things on the face of it bother me. And one...the first thing is...and maybe these are easily explained and I may ask Senator Hall to explain part of it, but one is the...I understand the cross-subsidization argument and that it gives to certain businesses, in this case nat...or gas purveyors, certain economic advantage in the marketplace. The first concern I have is one, if whether the Legislature ought to get involved in what sounds to me like a marketplace situation...marketplace problem, or...and whether this sets the kind of precedent that could be utilized by other businesses to come to the Legislature if they find that they may...are working under a disadvantage...a marketplace disadvantage. That's the second, first...problem I have just off the top of my head. And then secondarily, the con...the second concern I would have is that there are laws, both on the state level and on the federal level dealing with antitrust. Creating antitrust causes of action or potential causes of action for possibly these...this type of activity if it could be determined to be violative of our state and federal law in the antitrust area. I don't know what I'm going to do on the bill, Senator Hall, I just, in listening to your discussion, I guess I...I wonder if we get involved in these marketplace disputes, whether that will open up a Pandora's Box for other legislation by other industries and I guess maybe...I guess maybe I might ask you just a question off the...the one question at this point if you'd yield.

SENATOR HALL: Sure.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hall, do you yield?

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Senator Hall, have you had an opportunity to investigate, or do you know, or have you had any discussions with the interests that brought this bill to the legislature about potential antitrust actions or whether or not that's a viable option under state or federal law?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Ashford, for many of these folks, it is...it probably isn't because we're talking about basically mom-and-pop, Main Street kinds of operations. If they are not able to correct the situation as they view correction, in terms of, you know, an LB 301 approach, whatever approach that ultimately is, yet that is out there. They recognize that their