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development projects that would benefit the rural areas. So I would encourage...would be willing to answer any questions and encourage the body to strike this aspect of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. For discussion on the Maurstad amendment, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, when we considered this amendment in committee and this portion of the amendment was discussed I had some misgivings about it at that point because of the high power usage that is experienced, especially in our developing ethanol industry, and the feeling that these people that are investing those huge sums of money, such as at Blair, may be eligible for this kind of consideration for their electric power, recognizing that it is not going to be sold as...and make other ratepayers subsidize. And when I originally pushed my button, it was to discuss the identical amendment possibility that Senator Maurstad has now offered. Since we discussed that amendment in the Natural Resources Committee, in visiting with various individuals interested in economic development in our rural areas, it has become apparent to me that I think that Senator Maurstad is correct in what he is attempting to do here, and I will support this amendment to the committee amendments. Thank you, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Wesely, on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, I stand in opposition, Madam President, and members of the Legislature, to the Maurstad amendment. You know we are trying to deal with a particular situation here, and Senator Maurstad obviously believes that this is good stuff for everybody who might qualify. I don't. I think that we are breaking away from the concept of cost of service. We are trying...we already have low rates of...we have low rates of electricity here. Public power has benefitted the state tremendously. We have not been able to provide lower rates for residential users and small businesses and whatever because of the cost-of-service concept, but we are willing to for this larger company coming in here in this special situation to make this special break available. I think let's limit it as much as possible. I don't even like it as far as it goes, but to go beyond that, as Senator Maurstad said, is I think far too far.