

little recap, so we know where we stand.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, on 828, you may recall, is the...again the third...the third leg of the stool on these Micron bills and basically deals with the ability of the utility companies to make special rates, special rates for a period of five years with respect to companies that are part of a Jobs Quality Act initiative. And so we are empowering the boards of directors of the various utilities, municipals, NPPD, OPPD, empowering them to give these special rates if certain high levels of electrical demand are evident and if that high demand also has a minimum load factor, that it shows a fairly high constant use. So that's what the bill does, basically. We're now on the committee amendments. The committee amendments essentially have one...one significant aspect, and that is whether the ability of the utilities should be to act independently or whether it should, for the moment, be tied to the Job Qualities Act. And the committee amendment limits the utilities in their ability to do this to projects under the Job Qualities Act. If you reject the committee amendments, or if you reject at least that aspect of the committee amendments, then you're opening it up for utilities to act on their own in any situation where these qualifications that I've just described have been met. And I think that's where we are. We're now on the Maurstad amendment to the committee amendments, and that would strike..that amendment would strike the linkage between the Job Qualities Act and the ability of the utilities to grant incentives in particular deals. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Maurstad, would you like to quickly recap your amendment. (Maurstad amendment, FA54, can be found in the Legislative Journal on page 834.)

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. As I indicated at the...about the noon hour, yesterday, the reason for my bringing this amendment to the committee amendment is to solidify my position that I believe that these bills can stand on their own. I believe that there is a possibility that there might be other projects that might not be related to the Quality Jobs Act that might serve itself to have the utility option available in 828 to the economic development professionals to possibly entice another entity to locate here or another business currently here to expand. So it's probably