

Committee was considering LB 828, and I know that one of the reasons the comm...some members of the committee felt comfortable passing the bill to the floor was because this amendment was attached which would limit the application of the negotiated rate to...to projects of this magnitude. I would feel uncomfortable with the floor, although members...members of the body are never bound by decisions made by committees. In this case I think it was such an integral part of this bill advancing, I would feel uncomfortable undoing the work of the committee, so I will not be voting for the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I'd like to start out with an apology, first of all. I had indicated in my remarks before that I was surprised that the utilities were not abiding by their word to abide by the decision of the Natural Resources Committee, inferring that Senator Maurstad was taking up the cause of the utilities. But from conversations with him and other conversations with other people I...it's quite clear to me that Senator Maurstad is reading bills and taking up things on his own and philosophizing and seeing...applying some common sense and seeing if things make sense, and I like that. So I want to apologize, Senator, for inferring that you were acting other than on your own behest. Also, in further conversations with Senator Maurstad I had indicated to him that the remarks that I had made with regard to having some hearings next year on this policy matter was not just a way of putting things off, that in fact it is an interesting proposition that is the broadening of the authority of the boards of directors of utilities to act independently in granting these incentives. And I would indicate to him publicly on the floor that we will deal with that matter further, particularly if he has an interest in it and is willing to put a little time in on it. And so the matter will be addressed. But I would like to reiterate again that there are a whole series of problems that we ought to think very carefully about before we jump into this one too far. We've made some real big steps the last few days with these three Micron bills, some enormous steps. And a little note of caution here and there and a little more thought when we have the time and leeway to give that thought I think is not out of place. The kinds of problems that I think should be considered when you're talking about extending the power in the manner proposed by the Maurstad amendment, first of all, you have to keep in mind that in doing this at all