

another time and another place. I think that the Maurstad amendment, although certainly well-intentioned, and I also appreciate Senator Maurstad looking closely in trying to improve the legislation, I think that we're expanding the powers of the utilities beyond what we may want to do on this limited time frame of discussion. I would also wonder about the amount of time and public input into this process. And as fast as we are moving now there are many people who aren't even aware of what is happening with this. I think that current statute reads that the rates must be fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory. Currently that's being done. There are various categories, and within those categories rates are able to be set and charged and they can be done so now and reduced rates can be done so at the current time. But by creating a whole new category, by streamlining the process discrimination would take place. That's going against what our current statute allows. I'm not sure that that's the kind of policy decision and the extension and expansion of policy that we want to do without more forethought than we're providing right now. I support the committee amendments. I am opposed to the Maurstad amendment for that reason. If it's good policy, let's take more time to examine it more closely, let's have more public input, let's make a wise decision, for what we're doing here today does not just impact on the Micron project, but it will impact many other projects. It will allow for more discrimination and certainly there are going to be businesses out there who will feel discriminated against as a result of what the negotiated rates will be set for on Micron as it is. So, with that, I would encourage your attention to this amendment of Senator Maurstad's and would support what Senator Withem and Senator Beutler have said and encourage you to vote against the Maurstad amendment and for the committee amendments. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Any further discussion on the Maurstad amendment? Seeing none, Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAUPSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I certainly appreciate the time that was devoted to my amendment and also to Senator Beutler's kind words, an apology certainly wasn't necessary but I appreciate the gentleman expressing...expressing his thoughts. As I indicated, I think that this is something that we...if now is not the time, something that we certainly need to address in the future. And I appreciate committee Chair's pledge to look at that into the future. I don't think