

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler, the bill, as I read it, states that the reduction in the rates, tolls, rents or other charges would be effective for a period not to exceed five years. Why was the 5 year standard used as opposed to, I believe there's a 15 year standard in one of the other bills, if I'm not mistaken. But why was the...was there any discussion at the hearing with regard to the reason for the five year threshold?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't remember...I don't remember specifically discussion on that point, and to my knowledge, I suppose, that could be moved in either direction, it just depends, I suppose, on the general question of what types of incentives are appropriate. And, as you know, what's appropriate is largely...is determined by what it takes to be competitive in the atmosphere of today's decision-making in any event.

SENATOR HALL: But there was...to your...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't...I don't recall that it relates to any specific factor or function. Now, once...once this period of time is expired, they have to go through a process that involves public hearings in order to set up the nondiscriminatory rate that is applicable under current law, I don't...I don't...I'm not saying to you that it takes five years to do that. It doesn't take five years to do that. But that's the only thing I can think of that might have a relationship to that period of time, other than the somewhat subjective judgment as to what kind of an incentive is necessary in order to be attractive.

SENATOR HALL: And the issue of a public hearing, I mean I don't see where that is laid out in the bill as it relates to this additional language. I understand the committee amendments as we adopted them would have the benefit only derived by a project that was initiated under the act as it's spelled out in LB 830. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's correct.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. And then...but the way I read this there's nothing to say that there has to be any input, except input that's...or work that's done by the board of directors of a district. And it's not...it's permissive, it's not mandatory, but they can negotiate, fix, establish those different charges