

February 23, 1995 LB 828

state is that classes would not be artificially constructed to include only one company by defining things in such a way that it in fact was designed to only help one company.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Time. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, I rise, although I certainly have sympathy with what Senator Hall is doing, in opposition to his amendment, that's a part of why I stand to speak. The other aspect of that is, is that certainly as the utilities generate and are able to generate more electricity than they can sell and that currently is the case in this public power state, that those utilities in selling that excess capacity and in this case to Micron, would be using up some of that excess capacity. As they do that and as perhaps another Micron comes along, that excess capacity is used up. My question, and I don't know that anyone here on the floor can answer it is that I think needs to be raised, does that then lead us to the generation, the building of more capacity because we have then saturated the existing capacity? And if we then have to build additional capacity, then what does that do to the current rates and at that point then, are the residential customers, the homeowners having to subsidize the corporations? So although at this point, certainly the large electrical users are subsidizing many of the residential customers and particularly those rural customers who could not afford to have the lines strung to their farmsteads and ranches to be able to have that electricity available to them. That could change real quickly if we begin selling off the excess capacity to such large users and I don't know how much capacity will fully be utilized by Micron. But one more Micron taking electricity from OPD may well use up all of that capacity. And if then we do have to build additional power plants who, I ask, is going to pay for that? And will that raise the rates? And what type of capacity will be put into place at that time? And will it be renewable sources that do not have the additional costs to them associated with fossil fuel burning plants and with nuclear plants and with those nuclear plants where we cannot find locations to deal with either the low-level or the high-level radioactive waste that's being generated? There are many issues that are being raised with this bill and what is being attempted to do here. And I rise to raise the question of what will happen to rates ultimately as we discuss this whole issue. Thank you.