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LB 514

effect, it's sort of double-dipping onto them. This is probably an issue that should have been considered when the first Universal Service Fund order was put out. That order was complicated. They were busy trying to just get the big picture done. Senator Chambers accelerates and makes them look at that issue. I don't think that's inconsistent at all with the concept of universal service, in fact probably is helpful to it, and I think you all should look at that and...and.... Now Senator Bromm has got an issue that talks about we can get more Universal Service Fund monies, and there is a mechanism to do that. The game, it's not a game, but the issues there become who takes the blame for raising the fees? You'll find the Public Service Commission would like to see us give specific direction. They have done the basic Universal Service Fund and the Lifeline matters. They've done a good job with that. They deserve credit for that. But as we go to maximize the monies that we can get from the federal government, part of these fees are also going to raise and the issue's going to be who's to blame. You know, when somebody starts to get their phone bill, they're going to see their phone rates have gone up because many of the companies, to get to costs, now are going to have to raise and what we call rebalance their rates. And once those rates get up, then 514's going to come into play and those people with their increased rates, and some of them may be a dollar or two, some may be as high as maybe ten dollars of an increase per month, are also going to see a 5 percent fee put on it for Universal Service Funds. So you're...at some point in time in the next year, you're going to get a lot of constituents that are going to come waving their telephone bill at you saying, look what happened to my telephone rates; who's to blame? And you'll be faced with, well, I know we did something, we did something with Universal Service Funds, I'm not really sure. And then you're going to say, well, but the Public Service...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...Commission created the Universal Service Fund and that's the fee they did. When they call the Public Service Commission, they're going to say, look, the Legislature did that. And there's...that's where the politics of this will ultimately get played out, is when those phone rates increase,