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LB 78

SENATOR BRUNING: That's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in order to proceed. Would that be accurate?

SENATOR BRUNING: That's correct, Senator. I think the point that...the point we're both missing here is there are almost no cases where it would not be a double piping situation. Sarpy County and Douglas County are almost entirely developed, at least in the northern part where the cities are that we're talking about.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Let me...let me...this is a little bit of an aside, but since we're right on that topic right now, double piping obviously is a bad thing and you've reinforced that a number of times here today, including, in the case of natural gas, the safety factor that exists from doing that. If double piping is something that shouldn't happen in Douglas and Sarpy County, why should we ever allow it to happen anywhere else in the state?

SENATOR BRUNING: The problem is not as acute across the state. Typically, the areas served by a gas provider are carved out in a municipal franchise or a rural franchise, they're very well-defined areas, and this hasn't occurred as frequently in the rest of the state. MUD is a very large public utility. UtiliCorp is a very large private company. There's vast sums of money and their ability to double pipe...a few hundred thousand dollars here or there is a much smaller issue to these companies than it is to the natural gas company in any of the smaller cities around the state. So the problem is much more acute with the...with the development that's going on in the Omaha area.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So, with respect to subsection (sic--Section) 6, which essentially is the section that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...explicitly prohibits duplicative or redundant mains, et cetera, would you have any objection to extending that rule to the whole state? Would that cause