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SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BRUNING: ...that will help...help you understand my answer. Even the investor-owned utilities have limited rates, rates that are limited based on what the cities say they can charge. So the city of LaVista may offer a franchise, and there's a (inaudible)...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Under their franchise agreements?

SENATOR BRUNING: Correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BRUNING: And so there's a specific rate of return on the investment. You invest X dollars, you can make an 11 percent return, or a 12 percent return. It's a very specifically defined rate of return in those franchise agreements. And so I would envision an economic feasibility test that approximates the rate of return in the specific area. I wouldn't think it would...it would serve the public necessarily if a...if a...either MUD or an investor-owned could serve a specific area at a loss, say, although, I would want to make sure the commission had latitude to consider special circumstances. I, by no means, am an economist. And I know that in these types of rate cases, often the economists' opinions are heavily weighted. But in my mind I would see a rate that's similar to what's in the franchise agreement.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. With regard to Item number 2 in the test--the impact the enlargement will have on the existing and future natural gas rate payers of the Metropolitan Utilities District or the investor-owned natural gas utility. In that instance, are you suggesting that the impact test would be applied to all competitors, or in the context of this situation to both competitors? Let's say somebody was trying to cherry-pick somewhere in the county, would you...are you talking about looking at the impact on the...the favorable impact on, let's say Metropolitan was trying to cherry-pick. Would you consider the favorable impact on the rate payers of Metropolitan, and the unfavorable impact then on the investor-owned that would otherwise serve? Or are you looking