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LB 496

if we don't begin to look at this issue, every community will have a different ordinance. These people see this as a gold mine, some do not, but some do see this as a great revenue generator. That is levy limits come in, here's our chance to make some other money that's not included in the levy limits. And the bottom line loser is those people in those communities are not going to get the advent of competition, they're not going to get the advanced services that it takes to do it. I would like to go through, and I know that my opening doesn't prevent me or doesn't allow me to do it, I'm going to put my light on and try to do it in a piecemeal fashion, the committee amendment rewrites part of the bill. I think Senator Bromm is prepared to discuss that. I do support those committee amendments, and then we can begin to talk about the specifics. But the bill itself deals with the ability of telecommunications to come in and allows the city to have a fee. It's got to be in a relationship and it's got to be for the expenses that it cost to process that, to actually have them come in and tear up the street, that you can charge the company for doing that. That the company who, when they come in, if it takes traffic control, police, if it takes closing off a street, whatever those costs are to the city of having that right-of-way worked on, this bill makes it clear and I want to make clear that those costs are passed on to the company; that if there is a...some sort of charge for the right-of-way, that they've got to be done in a competitively neutral manner. In other words, you can't discriminate between somebody who's there and someone who's coming in to do it; that those sorts of things are in place. The occupation tax, which is a tax that the city can actually raise revenue from, is not affected by this. Most people didn't even know, and I...I mean, I've heard Senator Chambers, for example, talk about occupation taxes. There are few people who know and realize that cities charge an occupation tax. Some of them use them for vastly different things. Now Omaha does use a portion of that for road repair, but there are other cities who use that for a variety of other ways. This does not impact the occupation tax or the ability to charge that tax. I'm going to rest at this moment, Madam President, for just a minute or two, allow Senator Bromm to explain the committee amendments, and I would hope that you would advance 496. Thank you.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Bromm,