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LB 496

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Kristensen, will you yield?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes, Madam President.

SENATOR TYSON: For the information of the body, these questions are being inserted, the questions and the answers are being inserted into the record at the behest of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and Senator Kristensen has a copy of these questions since yesterday. Senator Kristensen, LB 496 would allow a city to have regulations to govern how a person or company digs in a right-of-way and the manner in which the damage is to be repaired. Is that a correct statement?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes, I...it is correct. I don't think that 496 in any way impairs the ability of the cities to say where in the right-of-way that they can dig. But that's where in the right-of-way, not where the right-of-way necessarily is, okay? There's a distinction in there. And for those of you listening, this may get a little tedious, but at the same time I still think the cities can say where in the right-of-way you dig, how...you know, you've got to pay for the inspections, the approval, the damages, if it takes, for example, police officers out there, or it takes city crews two days to put up closing a street, I mean there can be some substantial damages here for actually putting in the work. I think the companies, the "telecos" are responsible for that. I don't think this impairs the cities rights to require some of those things and to pay for them. Where I think we...we get where we have some problems is if the city says, the only places you can go is down on this side of town, and this is going to be right of way field, that can be an extremely expensive proposition. And that's the philosophic difference. I'm going to punch my light on to give you extra time, to make sure we get this done.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: But at the same time, I also want to say the cities have been very good to work with in this. So let's continue on.

SENATOR TYSON: Okay. The...so does LB 496 still allow the