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LB 496

That's the reason you see government entities in that definition. But I believe that you, for example, we had an express prohibition that I removed a couple of years ago that wasn't an express prohibition against public power companies getting into the telecommunications industry. I think that was sort of a belt and suspender type of issue at that time. I think the federal law says I can't discriminate against entry, so I took that prohibition out. I still think that there's a practical barrier there, and I defend that very strongly that the power companies can't get into telecommunications without express statutory authority. Now, if you say that doesn't make sense that on one hand you take away the prohibition so you're fair, but at the same time they can't get in because there's not an authority to do so, you're right. I mean that's the stand-off that's there.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And this definition was not intended to change that in any way.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: No. It's done to...it's sort of a uniform definition, that's the reason it's over in the other section. This is not an expansion of that authority to provide those services.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you very much. I'd withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The amendment is withdrawn. Any further debate? If not, Senator Kristensen, do you wish to close?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. And, Senator Beutler, I didn't mean to make fun of you filing the amendment, I was just amused at your quick ability on your feet, to run that to the front. It's kind of fun to see older guys run. And it's too bad that Senator Vrtiska isn't here, because we could say the same thing about him. But in all seriousness, members, 496 represents a bill that does need to pass, I believe, this year because of the proliferation of ordinances that are going to occur in this state. This is not an easy issue. Senator Brunn has worked hard on this issue, Senator Bromm and the committee, his staff has worked hard to take away a lot of the (inaudible). But I don't want to lead you to believe Senator