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LB 1240, 1285

those are important words and I want you to...I want to be sure that we have explained that very carefully. Let's see. Those are some very, I guess, significant aspects with respect to the fining authority. I'm sure that there will be questions and I will be happy to respond to them to the best of my ability. Let me say this, that...that in our...in our committee hearing on this subject and in the discussions leading up to the introduction of the bill, I did not find there to be overwhelming resistance in the industry itself to extending...to extending this authority of the commission, and I say that in all honesty. I did not find a great deal of resistance. I found...I found there to be some questions. I think the industry wanted to be sure that there would be the high level of proof required, the clear and convincing evidence. I think the industry wanted to be sure that the commission had the authority to mitigate this fine and take into account all of the...all of the circumstances and the fact that...that a company has perhaps made efforts to comply with the law that they're alleged to be violating. In determining the amount of the fine or what's appropriate, they wanted those things to be considered. We have...we've really incurred significant resistance within the last three or four days from one company in the industry, and I'm sure that they've spoken to most of you and I'm anxious to discuss this, to hear what the concerns are, what the questions are, and to find out why, in the day and age that we're in, with what we're trying to do in the area of telecommunications, it does not make sense and is not necessary to take this additional step to have a meaningful way of dealing with problems that are going to arise and have arisen in the area of telecommunications. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Landis, on FA301 to LB 1285.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it seems to me we can announce these things on the floor and just speak authentically. It's US West who doesn't like the bill these days. I think A T & T likes the bill in its form, I think Cox table (sic--Cable) likes the bill, then there are a wide variety of players that have differences of opinion between what is the LB 1240 section, which is the automatic stay section, and LB 1285, which is the fining authority for the PSC. Now this