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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you respond?

SENATOR LANDIS: The bill distinguishes between regulated public utilities and nonregulated, and nonregulated constitute the municipal systems, including MUD. They self-regulate to the extent that they have a local board that's elected. They develop their own rate structure out of their own costs, and they're not subject to the Public Service Commission jurisdiction under the bill. So, in answer to your question, it would be the Aquila, KM, and NorthWestern ratepayers who would be essentially paying for the system, because theirs would be the three systems that would be regulated by the Public Service Commission. The other systems are exempt under the operation of a municipal exemption mechanism.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Okay. So when you're talking about the exempt systems, that would include not only MUD, but then also the municipally-owned systems. Is that...am I understanding that correctly?

SENATOR LANDIS: That's correct.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Okay. Now when I...when we talk about that, I guess just to give me an idea in numbers of customers, what are we talking about? You mentioned Aquila, KN (sic), NorthWestern. My impression is, is that that would encompass most of the natural gas customers in the state of Nebraska. Is that the right impression that I have?

SENATOR LANDIS: There are 542,485 total meters in the state, Mark, and 325,409 of them are investor-owned. You know, and if this was "The Pyramid" or \$64,000 bucks, I ought to get (laugh) something for knowing that. Of course, I didn't know that, Laurel just handed that to me, but that's what the sheet...

SENATOR QUANDAHL: There it is.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...that Laurel handed me said.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: There it is. So, if I'm hearing you correctly, roughly it sounds like about 60 percent of the