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FLOOR DEBATE

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issues and concerns, or (c) health and safety. It goes on in the third and next section to state that the notice for the hearing shall be in addition to the regular notice usually provided for board meetings, shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the state. The notice shall include a brief description of the extraordinary circumstances and the sites where documents recording this hearing may be reviewed by the public. At least one of these sites shall be on the web site of the power district providing this notice. That's the essential and key component of the amendment, which you should have on your desk. I believe that this should be a standard that should not be a problem, since it is public power. My intent is to once again reaffirm that we are not going down the road of privatization or starting that process of privatizing our public power. Other than perhaps one member of this body, I've not ever heard anyone say that privatizing public power is a good thing. I've not heard it through the LR 455 Task Force from any of the utilities or anyone other than one utility representative that was not public power in that task force process. I think that everyone here is supportive of keeping public power and the intent language reaffirms that, making it clear that if we're going to allow this indemnification that it does not mean that we're giving up on the public in public power. The additional component in requiring that it's extraordinary circumstances could be met by the utilities under the circumstances presently there, so I don't think that's an excessive burden. And since the utilities have told us that they had a unanimous vote by all of their board members, the two-thirds board voting requirement that's in the amendment also should pose no problem and should not be a standard that's difficult or too high. With a unanimous vote, this should just slide right on through and not be a problem. The other thing that it does ask for is that the public be informed and that notice to the public be provided by the utility. Again, public power districts have notification for their board meetings. They do inform the public of their actions. They have duly-elected board members from various areas within the power district, and so to inform those electors of the activities of their board and of their utility I think is in keeping with the openness of our open system of government in Nebraska, but particularly as it applies to public power