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SENATOR BRASHEAR: In theory I wouldn't, Senator Beutler. But I'm trying to think about the practicality. The enormity of the legal fees and costs involved in allowing a small, as you described it, contractor to file a lien and then prosecute and defend the claims, cross-claims, and counter-claims that would evolve, I think would be...I think it's no remedy at all. I don't know as I have an objection. But I don't think it's as simple as allowing them to file a lien. These are not...and these are typically not small projects, and they're not even small subcontractors, as the testimony was before the committee. This is very significant work being done by very significant contractors, irrespective of how they're denoted.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But depending on how the public power district structures the contract, they can do a lot or they can do very little in terms of protecting subcontractors. Wouldn't that be true? I mean, if NPPD, for example, took a very active role in the construction of their contracts with a prime contractor, they could go a long ways towards affording protection to the subcontractors, even with a \$200 million limitation, I would assume.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes. I think they...I think they could ..

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What would be the incentive for NPPD to do that?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, you said they could go a long way toward protecting them. And I...based on the testimony we heard, and just some experience with enormous construction contracts, I believe they're protected, again, because of the cycle of payment, disbursement and payment. The...in these situations, enormous sums of money are held by a third party, and released as contracts are...as performance is demonstrated and certified by architects and engineers. So there are a lot of people involved in the process of how the money flows.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Okay, thank you very much.