

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004 LB 888

work, establish boundaries, territories that any natural gas provider can serve and that's it. Now you'll hear arguments from all corners that, well, how are we supposed to grow our business and how are we supposed to continue providing the best quality service that we possibly can? And I would submit that the telephone industry has been doing this for 80 years. Telephone industry lives by boundaries. It's a virtual monopoly as is natural gas. It makes sense to establish boundaries. However, Senator Landis has chosen the middle ground and maybe it will work. He has been unfair to both sides and fair to both sides. He hasn't picked an entity. And I would...again, I don't want to derail Pee-wee's bicycle, but I do...that's tongue in cheek. Remember Pee-wee? Pee-wee Herman. I don't want to derail the bike. I think Senator Friend's bill is a good piece of legislation. However, I understand this is an opportunity to correct and finally solve, if we can, the natural gas issue. And I will support Senator Landis' amendment if he ever brings it back. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines, are you finished? Thank you. Senator Janssen. Senator Janssen, on the advancement of LB 888. Senator Janssen, did you hear me? Senator Janssen, Senator Ray Janssen. Is there a Senator Janssen? He waives the opportunity to speak. There are no further lights on. Senator Friend, you may close on the advancement of LB 888.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. That whole bicycle thing, metaphor, is going to come back to haunt me I have a feeling. I apologize for that. I apologize like you cannot believe. Let me say this about LB 888. First of all, thanks for your patience here. We will address some of the questions, I talked to Senator Synowiecki briefly off the record, some things that we're going to address before obviously on Select File. The key to this whole bill, I think, is the idea that we're looking for something that I think I've been looking for, for quite a while. I think the body is looking for this type of thing too. What I mean is public policy that actually drives cost savings, public policy that actually drives cost savings for consumers, public policy that actually drives cost savings for our ratepayers out there. This is a bill that fell into my lap. At the same time, I thought it made good, sound economic