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FLOOR DEBATE

April 6, 2004

LB 499, 790

that amendment?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Do I do the germaneness one?

CLERK: Just a moment, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Just a moment, Senator Hartnett. We're getting there.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hartnett would move to amend with AM3491. He would offer a motion to suspend Rule 7, Section 3(d) to permit consideration of AM3491. (Legislative Journal page 1397.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett, to open.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, what this does, the bill that we had before dealt with relationships between mayor and a...the city council. What this does deals with one issue dealing with natural gas. And so what I would like to do is suspend the rules so that we could have the amendment adopted. And what it does, it limits a grandfather provision for high-volume users of natural gas who are under current law, were under the old law permitted to contract for gas rates directly with their natural gas providers. When the new law took effect last year, LB 790, one intended consequence was that certain high-volume users no longer qualified, as such results that they had to pay significant higher rates under the rate schedule were not permitted to negotiate rates. No one wants...wanted or intended for them to pay higher rates. The proposed change has been supported by Public Service Commission, the gas companies, and businesses involved. The proposed amendment would allow businesses that were high-volume users under the law, old law, would maintain the same level of usage at the current time to