

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

April 28, 2005 LB 645

appropriate, fair profit, and to pay the debt that they incurred for their infrastructure, and we will join a lot of...a long list--which I will provide you the details of later on in this discussion--we'll join a long list of people who have too much capacity. We then begin to fail economically because we can't justify the investment. And then we start selling that which we purchased with taxpayer monies. Because that's what public power...come on, you pay for the public power. And that investment then becomes available to somebody on the cheap. They pay 50 cents on the dollar, or 25 cents on the dollar to buy capacity and to begin to compete in the marketplace, having been given an unfair advantage which came out of the taxpayers' pocket. That's kind of the conclusion of the story, and the reason that I have a concern that we know what we're doing before we do it, with regard to technology as it relates to the private and the public sectors both. Now, along the way, you introduce a bill like LB 645. And then you find out that, as you talk with your colleagues and you visit with those who are interested in the proposition and so on, you find out that you probably can't pass that bill outright. It's always good to take a count and have a sense of what you can achieve. Because if you can't achieve it, then you don't get anything done. So I started working with the parties in terms of what we could resolve together. And that's where you'll see the amendment, which is not a presumption upon you, any one of you. For instance--you know, we're all human, and we make mistakes--Senator Connealy recalls for me yesterday that he had, quote, put me on notice. And I may...I didn't forget it, but I may have neglected the notice he put to me, and I may not have included him enough. Well, then you pay the price (laugh) here on the floor. Senator Connealy and I will work on an understanding of the amendment. And that may be true of other senators also. But what I did do is, to the best of my ability, and with much help from others--Senator Baker, Senator Schrock, Senator Raikes, people who had expressed to me a continuing, ongoing interest by their continuing dialogue in this subject matter--what I did do was work on the amendment that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...will come after. And the amendment that