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leveraged the subsidy far greater, I think, than some of the big dogs, so to speak, in the telecommunications industry. But it's that private sector application, that private sector environment, that serves us so very well, and I think we as a state need to adopt policy that encourages the investment in the private sector so that we can leverage that competition, leverage those dollars, and so that we can move forward to provide better services all across Nebraska, not just discouraging retail operation which...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Those senators wishing to speak to the issue are presently Senators Schrock, Connealy, Brown, Beutler, Engel, Brashear, Chambers, Raikes, Redfield, and Smith. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm probably one of the more naive members of this legislative body. In fact, it wasn't too long ago I was riding on a turnip truck, so I will speak from that perspective. I was asked in early January to carry a piece of legislation that would allow public power to lease their lines for broadband technology, not retail, just lease. And I innocently thought, well, that doesn't sound too difficult, so I said, well, I'll have the members of my committee sign on; it will be a committee bill. I don't think there has ever been a bill more lobbied in the Exec Committee than that one. And members of the Exec Committee, if I'm wrong, tell me. That bill got referenced to the Telecommunications and Transportation Committee, even though I had my committee members sign on to, even though I thought it was a public power issue. Granted, it is also a telecommunications issue. So we redrafted another bill, and the Executive Committee had a difficult time. They had a couple of tie votes, and finally a certain member I won't mention broke the tie and we did get a bill and we did advance that bill with a study. Now I will tell you I'm not the most technologically advanced person on this legislative floor. I don't even compare to Senator Brashear. And if you're going to take somebody on in