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

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this body, the last person I would guess you'd want to take on is to be an opponent of Senator Brashear's legislation. I don't relish that, I didn't relish that. But we were in a war and it was a turf war, telecoms against public power. I do want to tell you that if you lived in any of the surrounding states, I do want to with the exception of Wyoming---and if you want numbers we can get them, and Wyoming, by the way, sits on a coal mine and has a low population with quite a little hydropower--your electric rates would be 20 percent higher than they are in Nebraska. a farmer who uses a lot of electricity, I appreciate that. Most of our irrigation wells are powered by electricity. We may...as agricultural producers, we pay pretty high property taxes, but at least our electric rates are reasonable. So as this it became apparent to me that we had a stalemate advanced, because neither side could probably get what they wanted. so I want to commend Senator Brashear for working with both public power and the telecoms to get to the amendment we're talking about now. I do support it. I think it's reasonable. I think it's balanced. I do not know if broadband over power lines in going to be the new technology. I just knew that I didn't wart Nebraska to be the first state to ban broadband over power lines. What a message we send to our business. Nebraska, become productive, become a business; by the way, we do ban new technologies, we are not interested I am very skeptical about whether broadband over technology. power lines is going to be a technology used a lot in Nebraska or in rural areas. I do not know the answer to that. I just knew that I didn't want to ban it forever, and that's what LB 645 in its original form did. And so, I thought we needed to study the issue, kind of see what's going on in other states, because they are using it in some areas, and apparently it's successful. I do not...I don't have firsthand knowledge of that. So here we are. I did pass out some information. will note that Qwest, one of our larger telecoms in the state, maybe the largest, paid no income taxes last year--LB 775 you will that's easy. And note that the telecommunications industry is one of the most subsidized industries in the nation. So I do get tired of this argument...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.