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

April 28, 2005 LB 645

world, and as Senator Brashear talked about, we need to be able to have every tool available. I believe a moratorium on cooperation between entities is not needed. I haven't picked this bill all apart, but I did put up an amendment to do those two things. And there might be more that we need to do. don't know if the task force is a breakup that I want or not, a breakdown, I should say, I want. I have to study that. I just saw this amendment yesterday afternoon. I wasn't...like I said, I wasn't part of this negotiation. I don't know about striking a provision of law that allows counties to be involved. I know in Section 10, I haven't really studied that part of it, of the bill yet, so there's questions in this that I think we have to look at. This is a complicated amendment and a complicated area of law. It's something that we want to do right. I do not want to stand in the way of technology, but I also don't want public power in the retail business. I don't want a public entity to I've got fiber be competing with the telephone companies. optics right by my home in rural Nebraska, and that infrastructure and that investment that my telephone company has made needs to have a line of income to pay it off, so I don't want to stand in the way of that. I don't want to fight to make sure that we become, as public entities, telephone companies. But I also think that we shouldn't stand in the way of cooperation between entities. I think we have to make sure that we don't make sure that libraries or other entities are not able to do the job that they do. And so, I'm worried that this is too strong and too much, and I'll have an amendment later on to address those. And if I have any time left, I'll waive it to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, about two minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, Senator Connealy, thank you. I think I'll start on my own time because I really need a little more than two minutes to open this conversation from my perspective. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, thank you. Further discussion, Senator Brown, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members, I have followed this