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FLOOR DEBATE

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intent is to distort what otherwise would happen in a purely private environment. I don't think you can say that what might be done in a public entity is necessarily bad and what might be done in a private entity, particularly when it's an environment of sometimes heavy subsidies--somehow ethanol comes to mind--it's not at all clear to me but what there are more ethanol plants built and now...and will be built, than otherwise makes good sense when you consider what the private companies would do. Now Senator Smith seems to think that as long as you direct this distorting influence to a private company, it's all right. I guess I don't see that. I am certainly supportive of private enterprise. I think we need to do it. But I don't think we can be unrealistic and say, anything private is good and anything public is bad. If you look at the performance of public entities and their management and the various kinds of difficulties they've gotten into with accounting irregularities and so on, I think the privates have a much worse record in recent years than do the publics. So I think we need to be evenhanded in the way we look at public entities and them versus private entities. I wouldn't...you know, Senator Schrock has already mentioned that if you look at taxes paid, even though supposedly public entities don't pay taxes, the amount of taxes as compared to private entities in this particular industries are about a wash. I would also suggest to you that, as near as I can tell, you don't have to worry about OPPD threatening to leave the state unless they get some big state subsidy. There are certain advantages that you need to keep in mind. I will, with those comments, just as a expression of maybe some frustration with the balance that we're taking here, turn to a specific question in Section 5 of the amendment. And that has three subsections. The second one says: Except as otherwise provided in Section 3 and 4 of this act, a public power supplier shall not provide on any basis broadband services, Internet services, telecommunications services, or video services. Then the third section...subsection says: This section terminates on December 31, 2007. My question is this. My understanding is that a power supplier...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...cannot provide...as we speak, cannot provide