

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

April 28, 2005      LB 645

telecommunications business. Now maybe they don't want to go into full retail telecommunications business, but they would love to pick off some of the heavier users of telecom, because it would be profitable. I mean, I think it's important to note that a municipal electric system is vastly different because they have the critical mass to serve without the vast expanses of a rural electric association or cooperative. So we can't always directly compare apples to apples. But I want to do whatever I can to maintain as much competition in the marketplace as possible. I think that's one of the most fundamental purposes of government is to maintain that free competition. And it disturbs me when one entity...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...wants to protect their turf, but they can actually leverage to get into another business. That concerns me greatly. Whatever we can do to maintain as much competition, I want to support. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion on the Brashear amendment, AM1334, Senator Baker, followed by Senator Janssen.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I'm going to try and bring a few other issues to light here on this bill, since it was in our committee and we have done some work studying the issues. Somebody brought up costs, I think, and I don't remember who was asking questions. But at the committee hearing it was brought out that the cost per mile to serve a customer...in my case, I believe the question was what it would cost to get this service to me BPL of about 2.5 miles from a nearest customer who would maybe have it. And it was \$5,000 per mile. This has been touted as a particular technology that would serve the last person. And we do have power lines, of course, out to our place. We have power. But economically, it wouldn't be feasible to spend \$12,500 to get BPL out to my place. Number one, I already have it, wireless Internet, high-speed Internet, at my house now. My telecom provider also has broadband capabilities fiber not far from my house, so the economics of this serving the last mile with BPL, they're not