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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 748

area, nor do I want to be, Senator Howard, but I do think that this is a fairly logical, consistent, common-sense approach to sorting out who can do which, which utility can do what. And with that, I would be happy to answer any questions. Again, I'm not an expert in this area. However, if you have questions, I cannot answer them, I will get answers for you. But hopefully we can have an extensive debate about this very important subject natural gas, that obviously each and every one of our citizens needs. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the opening on LB 748. As stated by the Clerk, there are Urban Affairs Committee amendments. As Chairman of the committee, Senator Friend, you're recognized to open on AM0435.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, good morning. LB 748, committee addressed it and obviously we've got amendments that do essentially three things. First, while...ostensibly, while the...while there continues to be provision for the cities, villages and metropolitan utility districts to serve, I guess, as competitive natural gas marketers, if you will, the amendments would now require that they be certified to do so by the Public Service Commission under existing requirements of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act. The second piece, Section 1 of the original bill, which essentially created the municipal right of first refusal when a natural gas system, owned by and operated by a jurisdictional utility, is being sold is stricken from the bill. And finally, the expanded authority to condemn natural gas system property granted to a metropolitan utilities district is made subject to formal city or village approval when the property sought by that utility district is located within the corporate boundaries or extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of a primary, first-, or second-class city or village, or when the facilities are located on property owned or leased by such entities. That's really it, as far as the committee amendments go. Obviously, that is about as short-winded I guess I will be on this subject and future subjects, but with that (laugh)...with that, I would ask for the...I would ask for the adoption of AM0435 to LB 748. Thank you, Mr. President.