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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 748

decide to annex into the city. But on the theory, I suppose, you know, you should be able to control your own city limits, understand LB 790 says, look, city facilities are not regulated.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR LANDIS: So, while annexation makes sense, but if you're going beyond the city...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time is up, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On with discussion. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Connealy, Stuthman, Bourne, Beutler, and Landis, and five others. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, you know, I probably have as much knowledge here about city owned gas companies as anyone does, or experiences. Let's put it that way. Fremont is...I heard the statement that, you know, the world is not going to come to an end. Well, Fremont, the city which I represent, their world almost came to an end 25 years ago. The cities don't want to duplicate piping. They just want the existing pipe that's there to be safe, and that was not the case, which brought on the travesty 25 years ago. That company had been bought and sold, or that system had been bought and sold by several different companies throughout, oh, probably the last 30 years prior to what happened 25 years ago. And what happens, what happens if a company goes broke and that system is put up for sale? The same thing could happen that happened in Fremont 25 years ago. They see customers out there. Well, we'll snatch that up and we won't worry about the system; we want to make some dollars; we want to make a bunch of money on that system. I have two, a city and a village, in my district that own their own gas companies. Those people enjoy some very, very low rates. And they're run by the city council, department of utilities, or the village board. If you don't...if you don't think that system is running right, you go to that village board meeting or the city council meeting, get