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discussion. Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Really, why I'm interested is the discussion that Senator Janssen just covered. You know, we had a classic battle a couple years ago and LB 384 was a big win for the privates, for it restricted the ability for a town to, if they're having problems with the system, if the response and the service isn't up to par or if it believed that it'd be better for the city to own that, we put restrictions in place so that it's tougher now for a community to take over that system. We didn't make it so it's the regular process of condemnation. We put up more hurdles. I'm hearing now that their plan...the Municipal Power Pool says it could be up to five years for a city to go through the process of appeals and the like to take over a public...make a system public. We have now a gas company on a national wide basis that's in trouble. Aquila is selling off systems. They say they aren't going to do it here, that our systems are secure, but what if that system or another system is having financial problems, is not being able to serve their communities as well as they should? We give up the right for our consumers and for us as the public to have the power to make it safer to provide that service. I believe that we ought to look at what we did a couple years ago and say, you know, maybe we went a little bit too far in restricting ourselves, in restricting our consumers and our public entities into making sure that systems are safe and have that incentive out there for these companies to make sure that they do a good job. Otherwise, someone might say, well, we want a different system. I believe that by restricting ourselves we've given these gas companies less of a incentive to do the right thing, and I believe that we ought to change that direction. With that, I'd turn over the rest of my time to Senator Bourne, if he wants it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, about 2, 35.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, members. You know, as I said in my opening that I am not an expert in this and this bill is actually, I think, my first foray into this area. And I tell you what I'm going to do is illustrate how confusing this is. Senator Landis talked about the double