

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

May 9, 2005

LB 748

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you. Then, if that would go to the...to the publicly owned...the community, those assets are off of the tax roll, or am I mistaken?

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, they're ratepayers. I mean you're pulling out of a different bucket, okay? Here's my point. If you...if that...if, let's say, Omaha annexes Elkhorn, yeah, there's going to be an effect on the Omaha taxpayer. There's going to be an effect on the Elkhorn taxpayer. But you're talking about a different entity going out and acting as a governmental subdivision and condemning a certain amount of infrastructure. So what I'm saying is I don't think that the degree and the effect on the taxpayer would be the same as it would be if there was, you know, a larger infrastructure and sewers and everything else involved in the situation. And maybe that's an indirect and bad answer to your question.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Well, in my opinion, that isn't the way that I feel it's going to happen, and I'll use my community as an example, what is providing the natural gas, you know, as a private supplier. They own the pipes. They own the infrastructure. They're paying property tax on that infrastructure. If it is condemned and taken over by the municipality or the city of the first class, then those dollars are off of the tax rolls, that infrastructure part of it. Now, where is that money that is supplied by the private industry...you know, that is not going to be paid to the communities, to the local subdivisions anymore. You know, where is that going to go? That is a concern that I have. I just...I just don't think this is totally the right direction that we should be going at the present time. I am concerned with assets of a private organization paying their fair share of the tax dollars to the communities...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...in comparison to the community owning the infrastructure, and then there is...it's not on the tax rolls anymore. That's a concern of mine. Another concern is that if we...if we let this to happen, short-term rates will probably be