

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

May 9, 2005

LB 748

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...an alternative to Step 15. Step 17, the court pronounces judgment. Step 18, the city or utility, if one chooses, files an appeal. Step 19, the Supreme Court hears and determines the appeal. Step 20, the governing body of a city takes action to submit question of condemning the gas system to the registered voters. Then there's Steps 21, 22, 23, Step 24, and at the end of Step 24 the city can now own the municipal gas system. In my opinion, this is cumbersome. As I understand it, it's never been done because it's too cumbersome. And I think, quite honestly, some utilities in the rural part of the state know how difficult this is and, because of that, are unresponsive. They do not listen, particularly the city of Hastings. I think there's a...there's a...Central City, there's an ethanol plant, as I understand there's some issues. So the point that I'm trying to make is this process is cumbersome. And I'm not criticizing if Senator Landis did this or the Urban Affairs Committee, but I think you can see that it's a 20-some...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...step process that just doesn't work.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Landis and others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Landis, if I could exchange a couple ideas with you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I'd appreciate it.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yeah.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Again, I want to divide this up a little bit and I want to just talk about the takeover of private systems, because it seems like Senator Bourne's bill has two distinct