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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 748

expensive. When the condemnation court came back, the condemnation court said, city, now that you've condemned, you've got to pay \$2,200...\$2,025 per meter for what you're condemning. When Neligh, after having fought about a half...a quarter of a million dollar fight in the voting, fought another \$100,000 fight in court, discovered that they had a system that was too expensive...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...for them to take over. They'd fought the condemnation election for both sides, either ratepayers or taxpayers; then they'd fought the court case, either ratepayers or taxpayers, both sides losing those costs; then Neligh said, gosh, we don't want to take over the condemnation. Kinder Morgan, could we simply go back to where we were? After having spent, publicly or privately, what, \$300,000, \$400,000, \$500,000, \$400,000 let's say, we got back to square one because we condemned without knowing the price tag. The old system allows you to condemn without knowing the price tag, and that's the most living recent example of an attempted takeover--\$400,000 of wasted money by ratepayers or taxpayers fighting over a system by which the city condemns without first knowing the price tag. That's why LB 384 had the momentum it had. Could it be cut back? I think so. Is it overreaching? Probably. On the other hand, there's enough of a problem there that you fight, spend, condemn,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and don't know the cost of what you're buying.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Landis, followed by Senator Thompson. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: It's hard to know where to start because you're not sure where you are when you've done hundreds of hours of fighting on natural gas issues, which is the case for me after 27 years, I mean literally hundreds of hours in rooms negotiating and fighting about these things. It's hard to get