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SENATOR BOURNE: That's a very fair question, Senator Wehrbein. The other gas companies are referred to as municipally owned or municipal gas companies. So the other cities other than the Metropolitan Utility District are included in the bill. But I never heard any concern that Hastings, for example, that municipal gas company would go on to try to incorporate some other community. So the other criticism I heard, we don't MUD to hopscotch, and that's what this amendment is trying to prevent.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right. Okay. I just wanted that clear on the record, if nothing else. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Further discussion? Senator Erdman. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Mr. President, I yield my time to Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was asked what my position is on these natural gas bills. And I guess it's hard to take a position on a moving target, but I would like to lay out what I think is good public policy, and perhaps gain some clarification on some points that I think are in somewhat of a conflict within the natural gas issues before us. I do have to say up front that I am troubled when a public entity wants to behave like a private entity with all the luxuries of a public entity. And to me, that invites decisions that chase investment out of Nebraska. And with that goes economic considerations that would otherwise make our economy even stronger. Would Senator Bourne yield to a question or two or three?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, would you yield?

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Bourne, I can appreciate your work on this issue. And I know it's a complex issue. And for me to