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LB 48, 748

private entity, and they get all the luxuries of a public operation, without...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: ...some of the responsibilities that go along with it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Mr. Clerk, priority motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, a priority motion: Senator Landis would move to recommit LB 748 to the Urban Affairs Committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on your motion to recommit.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. The last exchange between Senator Smith and Senator Bourne got to an interesting and difficult topic. And it is a gateway to one of the keys of understanding the issue, so I'd like to take this opportunity to consider the recommit motion. Senator Smith was asking, look, is there a possibility of growth for MUD, or not, under LB 748? And Senator Bourne answered, basically, well, we wouldn't support LB 48, (laugh) which was not directly responsive. But the idea was whether or not there could be growth, and if so, what happened to the taxes. Let me tell you what LB 748 does. LB 748 says that MUD gets to grow adjacent to its facilities beyond its legal boundaries, beyond its legal boundaries. Now, let me tell you where I think we ought to have the public policy. Number one, we should leave undisturbed the existing policy that MUD gets to define its own borders, which is exactly the law. This issue is not about where MUD gets to operate inside its borders; it's where MUD gets to operate outside its borders, where people do not vote for MUD board members. That's the fight. You know why it's there? Because it's very rich, virgin territory. It's territory that doesn't cost a lot to put down pipes, because they're open fields. And because of that--they're open fields, low-cost, but nice, new suburbs, big generators of propane--these are the best customers in the world to get. So