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LB 48, 748

look at the committee statement, Senator Landis voted this bill out. He voted for this bill. The only person on the committee that did not vote for it was Senator Schimek, and she abstained. And I don't know why. It doesn't matter. But two months ago this was good policy, because Senator Landis voted it out, and today it's not. And quite honestly, he says, can...he says, a compelling case has not been made on LB 748. I disagree. Senator Landis wants to make this all about MUD. I personally feel that MUD is a small component of LB 748. And if you talk to the League of Municipalities and the mayors of these cities that have municipal gas companies, they want this bill. They want this. Senator Landis stands up, and he raises his voice, and says, I have 26 years here in the Legislature. And when you speak loudly like that, somehow you exude authority, that your word is the final and last word, that somebody who hasn't served on the Urban Affairs Committee can't possibly understand this issue, that the rest of the members in here can't possibly understand gas. He said there's a double piping issue, and that LB 748 will make that worse. That's not true. There hasn't been double piping since LB 78 passed in 1999. Those maps that Senator Landis has are maps prior to LB 78. LB 748 does not rescind LB 78. It doesn't. Listen to the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. He said that himself. It doesn't. There is a legitimate policy reason to pass LB 748. If you want to recommit it to committee because you don't want to spend the time on the floor to do so, go ahead. And then we'll do the same with LB 48. Matter of fact, if Senator Landis would agree to recommit LB 48 to committee, I would probably agree to commit LB 748 to committee. I'm not sure this is the best use of the body's time. But I find it a little ironic that the master negotiator, Senator Landis, who has this reputation as a negotiator, and he's assisted me countless times negotiating, all of a sudden doesn't want to find the answer in this bill. I find that ironic. I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Friend, if he chooses to have it. I'm sure that the committee would have some comments and words regarding this motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Yes. Mr. President, how much time?