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LB 48, 748

SENATOR CUDABACK: About 2, 25.

SENATOR FRIEND: Oh, thank you. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Members of the Legislature, yeah, I got a few words to spew on this one, but I wouldn't even know where to begin. I'm...I'll begin here. The recommit to committee, if anybody has actually been listening to anything I've said today, I don't think it's a half bad idea. But let me tell you something, and I firmly believe this. I've said this from the very beginning. I'll probably say it till Senator Landis is blue in the face on LB 48. We do not have the answer out here. We got two bills that came out of our committee, Urban Affairs, and the answer is not there. I'm convinced of that. Senator Landis said a compelling argument hasn't been made on LB 748. I've been listening to arguments, hasn't been twenty-six years, hasn't even been four years, probably a year and a half to almost two years, on service territories for natural gas. I have not heard a compelling argument yet. As a matter of fact, in committee, I believe it was two years ago, the first year that I was here, I said, I'd like to regulate every one of you. The parade of people coming in, on both sides, unbelievable.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: Welcome to our nightmare, folks. Welcome to Urban Affairs' nightmare. Here's the answer: Send it back to us. I'd love it back. Believe me, I'd love it back. Second chances, everybody gets them once in a while. I want mine now. But if I get LB 748 back, I want LB 48, too. And here's what I think. Senator Landis spoke of the bookends. We did kill two bills that could be considered Aquila bills. Senator Combs over there, I apologized to her on two occasions. But guess what. One of the bookends is LB 748, and one of the instigators, I would say, of LB 748 has 250,000 ratepayers in the state of Nebraska. That's significant. That earns them the right, in my book, to argue public policy for this state. That earns them that right. Not only that, they've been doing it since World War II. They've been providing gas, and we've allowed them to do that, since World War II.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Friend.