

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2005

LB 748

station anyplace you want to if you're MUD, only MUD. But if you're MUD, you can put a town border station anywhere, and the area adjacent to their facilities is unregulated by the Public Service Commission. Is that king's X? I think it is. I think it's king's X. And you know, it was the town border station that MUD spent \$400,000 that the Public Service Commission says, there's only one logical rationale for why this is being done, and that is to leapfrog Aquila into new growth areas. And that's why this location is being done. That's essentially what the PSC says. It doesn't meet the five criteria of the law. It was for trying to beat the competition by jumping over them into some virgin territory, and there wasn't a public interest to support it. LB 748 says, MUD can build one of those kinds of stations anywhere, and the Bourne amendment before you says, and any facilities...and any area adjacent to those facilities is MUD territory. That's king's X. It isn't good policy. It doesn't allow planned growth. It doesn't allow the checks and balances on what constitutes the public interest. Look, MUD, by the way, sells the cheapest gas in the state. If that hasn't been said enough, I want to say it again. It's the cheapest gas in the state. Their ratepayers are terrifically well served, inside the city of Omaha, inside the existing boundaries of MUD, very well served. And there's a darn good reason to want to do business with them on a contract basis. Okay. But where you're beyond...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...the boundaries, the Public Service Commission should act where there is no man's land. Read LB 748, and it guts the only city or urban growth planning tool we have in this area. It is a gateway to double piping, and it's going to be a return to the kind of mishmash over...that you have here. And remember, double piping isn't just inconvenient, by closing roads and closing sidewalks. It's expensive. And not only that, it's unsafe. We need to do better. And gutting our urban planning tools to make way for one actor isn't good public policy.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Next five speakers are Senator Smith, Schimek, Redfield, Baker, and