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LB 48, 748

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Senator Burling. Members of the Legislature, I wanted to finish up what I had read, a statute out of, excuse me, on page 20 of the bill, LB 748, Section 17. I had read the underlined. What I wanted to point out is, this could be deemed and I think technically could be a component that would indicate that duplicative piping could be back in force, or it's something that could actually happen that a municipality can use. But I think it's quite inconceivable, because LB 748 offers up an expanded eminent domain and condemnation component that would, for all intents and purposes, make double piping a worthless commodity. I mean, why do it? If you can go out and get the...I mean, way too expensive, inconceivable. But I would have to say, technically, at least from the reading that I have, technically feasible. Let me read it again real fast: Natural gas utility owned or operated by a city or a metropolitan utilities district shall not be subject to the provisions of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, and the commission shall have no authority under the act over such natural gas utility or a metropolitan utilities district. Now, it's pretty vague. It could apply. What I'm saying is, not realistic. MUD doesn't operate that way. Not...best of my knowledge, nobody does. So...and the duplicative piping thing, just to clear it up, we've already read out of the statute, at least before lunch, that this is not something that's happening anymore. Have people tried to do it? Unfortunately, it's probably happened a couple...or at least that's been the goal, and they've encroached on it. But it hasn't happened. Now, I don't think anybody wants it to happen. But I also don't necessarily believe that LB 48 is transcribing...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...that it does. With that, Mr. President, that's all I have right now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Connealy and nine others.