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LB 48, 748

adopt the Bourne amendments, and let's take it to a vote. One thing led to another, the thing gets recommitted. I would offer this up: With this whole idea or the direction that we're going, it's now, now at this point in time, where we sit, very much...far easier, to pound bills back across the net, into a committee. That's a game I would...I would throw out the idea that that's a game that's just not that healthy. Keeping in mind that I don't believe that we need to reconsider this, we've lowered the threshold now, and we're in an unhealthy environment. Now that's easy to do with this issue. It's easy to roll us into an unhealthy environment, because LB 748, LB 48, whatever, there's an unpleasant odor about these two bills, natural gas notwithstanding. There's an unpleasant odor, and do the municipals exude that odor? Sure, they do. But there's plenty of stench coming from the investor-owned, okay? Plenty of it. If you don't buy that, go out to the lobby right now and go find out. The stench is out there on both sides. Now, I would...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...fire my forehand back at Senator Chambers on this one. The committee did do hard work on these, probably not long enough, probably not enough time. I'm not going to defend my actions, I'm not going to defend the committee's, but what I would say is that if you can grab hold of this issue--and we thought with these two bills that from a public policy standpoint and a statewide standpoint--this argument can be had out here. That was our rationale. Incorrect? You make the call. You're going to have to make the decision on this reconsider, but what I would say is, again, just to reiterate, the threshold is low now. When I see bills out here forever...or however long the citizens of District 10 would like me to be here, I'm going to say, you know what? There's always that option to recommit. Always that option, because we have lowered that bar.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President.