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LB 48, 748

need to take a good look at LB 748. I think it's on the right track. I know Senator Landis' bill, LB 48, needs...has merit. But to recommit them back to committee, I'm not too sure that that's a very good idea. I think that fight needs to be done here on the floor, and let's get on with it and have the match. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Bourne, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Since we're having this discussion now, I'm going to discuss some things. Senator Landis, I listened very carefully to his comments regarding my comments earlier, and I need to provide some corrections. Number one, Senator Landis talks about the amendment to take care of Bellevue. That's not true. That amendment was something I drafted, with the help of the research analyst for the committee, that responded to a concern of Papillion, that the Metropolitan Utility District would somehow come in and condemn Papillion's gas service. So I don't know what Senator Landis is talking about as it relates to Bellevue. The amendment he mentioned was something that I drafted, to respond to a concern of Papillion. Senator Landis talks about how the right of first refusal is unconstitutional. You know what? That point is moot, because if you read the bill and the committee amendment, the right of first refusal is not in there. It is not in there. There is no right of first refusal in the committee amendment. Was it in the bill? Yes, it was, and it was in the bill because we have some private investor-owned utilities that are basically thumbing their noses at the communities when they want to purchase those utilities. So was it in the green copy? Yes. It is not there now. So the unconstitutional thing is of no regard whatsoever. Senator Landis also mentioned that LB 748 is...excuse me, LB 78, which was put in place a number of years ago to stop a double-piping problem, is gone. Not true, not true. LB 78 is not removed or gutted in any regard in this bill, either under the original green copy or in the committee amendment. He also mentioned...Senator Landis also mentioned that it somehow doesn't comply with FERC. Again, not true. The gas people that I'm dealing with tell me that it complies with FERC in every