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

May 26, 2005 LB 645

guidance. Because right now, I don't think that there's going to be a power company or a private telecom invest any money to speak of in any of this technology, not knowing exactly what the Legislature is going to do, as far as direction, providing direction to them. So this puts that all on hold, gets the task force set up, and it sunsets the task force December 1, 2006. As Senator Brashear went through the participants in that, I think it's a good cross section of the affected parties. We need to get the bill passed, and get the report back to the Legislature, and then develop legislation from that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. On with discussion. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. The concept of a task force is one to bring people together to make some determinations and to help to shape some policy. That's a good concept. What concerns me about the task force is that we have appointments being made by varying bodies -- the Governor, the Executive Board, the Public Service Commission, Power Review Board, and NIT. That in itself isn't bad, but what can end up happening is we have public power looking out for their interests, we have the private telecommunications folks looking out for their interests, putting pressure on these groups to get people appointed that are going to be favorable to their position. What concerns me is not the task force, but how it all plays out, and that we don't just end up with the battle the Titans, each getting people appointed that are going to be looking out for their view, and then the public is stepped on and squeezed out. These airwaves are part of public domain, just as the water in Nebraska is owned by the state, not for the state, but for the benefit of future generations and for wise management of that resource. The airwaves, I believe, the same category. They're here for the benefit of the public. They can be used by public power, they can be used by private enterprise, and the state is in the middle of helping to shape policy in how that is managed. But the state role, our role, should be, I believe, to make sure that the best interest of the public is served. And that's what I hope happens with this task force, but I have caution and I have fear that that isn't as