

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

May 26, 2005

LB 645

going on right now. It's all or nothing, and we really need the information that the task force is going to provide, to enable us to make the decisions in the future, and really find out whether there is not only a viability of this technology, but whether there is any interest on the part of the...of the telecom industry to purchase it. And there are a lot of questions that need to be answered, and I think that that's why we have to go with the amendment as the Transportation Committee advanced it. And let everybody have a cooling off period, but a time when they can bring their side of the issue together, and so that we can move forward with a greater amount of information. And I think that a moratorium on activity is essential if we're going to...if we really believe that this task force is going to help us make decisions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Connealy, on your amendment.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I just believe we're overreaching. I believe that we're stepping too far on one side. We're not...this isn't holding harmless; this isn't, you know, just stopping in tracks. We are doing a retail ban forever. We can't bind future Legislatures, but that's...if we say that's our intent, that's our intent. We are stopping any cooperative agreements or any wholesaling until the study is over. I just think it's going too far. If you ban retail till the end of the study, if you allow people to think outside the box in other areas now, it does still accomplish things. It stops some retailing that's going on right now, that I think ought to be stopped. And that's why I think the bill is a good idea. There are public entities that are retailing information services and telecom that they probably shouldn't be doing. We have libraries doing it. We have other things that ought to be in cooperation with the telecom company. We ought to deliver that retail service, at least at this point, through the private sector. But I don't think that we ought to go farther than that. I don't think we ought to put our foot down and say, you can't deliver any other services through the system, the electric system, because that is a publicly owned entity here in Nebraska. It's a different thing than it is in other states. Other states have private power companies and have a different