

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

May 26, 2005

LB 645

we were getting through satellite service. And in the area where I live, we had to come clear down here to Creighton, Nebraska, or someplace like that, I think it was, that we bought our direct-way Internet service from. So it wasn't an investor-owned one. Part of the reason was, is because our privately owned corporations out in the western end of the state don't want to improve their phone lines so we could get any kind of direct Internet service over our phone lines like you do here in Lincoln, in these cities. So I think we have to be very careful about how we go about putting controls on some of these public power companies, on what they do, because over the years they have been the leaders in bringing this technology forward first. After it's brought forwards, then there are usually "investor-owns" that come in and have the service for the areas, but up until then, they are not always on the edge of the...on the leadership of bringing the service in. I think we have to consider that. Senator Beutler--I looked through the machine there--has an amendment, I think it's FA215, that would probably address those issues. It would put it that if there's geographic areas that no one else is serving, then your public utilities or public power could probably go ahead and do that. I think this is something that's more of a concern in populated areas. That's where the money is, that's where the population is, and that's where the people are concerned about their service. But at the same time, we do not want to put anything into laws or regulations that will stymie any kind of service into our rural areas, where the distance is something. When Senator Baker talks about being two miles from...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...the end of the line, I think the Panhandle REA, their average meter is one and three-quarters of miles apart. And that's the average; that isn't residence, that's meters. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again, this bill is interesting and, as it's proceeding, it's