

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

May 26, 2005

LB 645

bill would pass today, it would terminate that. I don't want to see that happen. That's why, that's why I voted no, the only no coming out of committee, and I'm going to stand by that. I do agree and I've been informed that there has been an agreement between the parties, but I think that, you know, maybe they have agreed upon it, but it's really not what they like, and I don't like it at all. So I'm not going to support this at all. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Mines, on AM1351.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I spent quite a little time on this issue at the start of the session. I would remind you that my parents didn't have electricity when they got married. That's hard to believe we go back that far. That's amazing, 1938. It wasn't private companies that brought power to their farm; it was public. Been a little controversy about whether privates and publics should compete with each other. I just tell you that if we didn't have public power in this state, your electric bill would be 20 percent higher. If you don't believe me, check with the neighboring states. Public power has served this state well, and people say we don't want public and private to compete. I feel that way, also, but let's don't bash what we have, because what we have is pretty darn good. I will also tell you this, that our public power industry pays property taxes, they pay in lieu of taxes. Qwest did not pay any income taxes last year in the state of Nebraska, because they're a LB 775 company, and they had enough credits. So don't tell me we have a tax issue here, because we don't. Public power has served us well. When they build new generation facilities, they won't ask for any LB 775 credits, because they're not eligible for it. Actually, I will probably support the bill either way, but Senator Connealy has a good amendment here. Let's don't get the horse before the cart, is what he's saying. He's probably...that's probably fair enough. I think the most important part of this bill is the task...is the task force. I do think that if this is an emerging technology that other states start using, this will take care of itself. I have not appreciated the way some of the people who have lobbied this bill have gone about their