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FLOOR DEBATE

May 26, 2005

LB 645

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Connealy, to close on AM1351.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I believe that this is as far as we ought to go. I believe that the bill should pass this year, that we ought to ban retail, but I also think that we ought to put some pressure on the commission to bring back the information that serves us all, that allows growth in the private sector and makes sure that they are protected as much as possible, and that retail ban at the beginning of this does that. But I don't think we ought to stand in the way of technology. I don't think we ought to stand in the way of cooperation. I think that allowing whatever limited wholesale or cooperation that is in place at this time or going forward is the right thing to do. We have a different situation here in Nebraska. You know, there's a national trend for telecoms to try to restrict this new technology that could come, and that's fine. But if we're going to deliver any type of telecom or information services through the electric system in the United States, Nebraska is going to have to do it through our public entities. We own the system, and so to say we're going to ban this and not have any allowable cooperation I think is the wrong direction and the wrong message to send to new technology. This will ban retail for the time of the study, and allow any cooperation or wholesale going forward until we get a good quality study done by this commission. I ask for your support of AM1351.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the closing on AM1351. The question before the body is, shall AM1351 be adopted to the committee amendments to LB 645? All in favor vote aye; opposed vote nay. We're voting on the adoption of the Connealy amendment, AM1351. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Voting on the adoption of AM1351, offered by Senator Connealy. Have you all voted? Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The amendment is not adopted. Mr. Clerk, please.