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LB 645

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: In...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I mean, for example, in the electric utility industry, even on the public side, we have an entity that should be helpful in protecting the consumer, I would think. On...in the telecommunications side, to a certain extent, obviously the Public Service Commission is the protector of the public. And I'm thinking that mostly my question is...is to go...I'd like to go through these four areas quickly, if we could, and tell me how in each one the consumer is protected, the average Nebraskan out there is protected in situations where there is not truly a competitive atmosphere.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Let me just comment once on the competitive situation, if I may,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...and then I won't repeat it. Actually, the potentiality for competition is ever increasing and it's because of the Wi-Fi and satellite and cellular kinds of concepts that are coming into play. So if you...if we stipulate that, then we go to how is, other than that competition, how is the consumer protected, and I would submit "regulatorily" because, for instance, all the telecommunications providers are governed by the Public Service Commission.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Are all of the different things, I mean, this definition that you have in the bill of telecommunications is...it means the transmission between one or more points specified by a subscriber of information of the subscriber's choosing without a change in the form or content of the information as sent or received.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Which is our established definition. I mean that's not being changed by this bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, and I understand that and, you know, curiously, it looks like that could include the United States Post Service if you said...use the word "transmission" in a...in