

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

May 26, 2005

LB 645

monopoly entities. And I was just interested in what your...do you...in doing this, you're taking away a threat from private industry. You look at it the other way, I know. Well, you do look at it as the taking away of the threat. And you see the benefit of that being, they will be more willing to invest. The other side of that is they can more likely charge what they want, because there will be no threat of public takeover or public involvement. It's interesting this session, I think, to watch our play within the gas wars, and how that whole thing kind of plays out, where we've reached the stage where we're considering, as I understand it, geographic jurisdictions to regulate the relationship between public and private as they exist. And then, we have not taken away the right of public entities to take over private systems, although we've made it a long procedural process. Why is it that we want to treat these particular categories differently from how we treat the relationship between public and private in the gas industry? I would yield my time to Senator Brashear.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, about a minute, twenty-one.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Beutler. I'm not certain I can answer all of those thoughts in the time you've allotted me, but I have turned on my light. You look like you were going to say something?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, please go ahead.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: All right. In part...I want to answer your question, when you asked me, am I satisfied? I want to indicate, yes, I am satisfied, in part. Because I believe, going through the process, and we all know it, by which legislation is formulated, and when the question has been asked, am I going to be confronted with an area that can't be served, and so on, I've gotten answers from knowledgeable people who are out there working and know. So I believe that there is service...there is competition or the threat of competition, and people are making the investments and so on. I also believe that we're missing something. And that is, "regulatorily," these existing providers who can provide these services--Internet, broadband, et cetera--are subject to the