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for so long and never be used, why does the telecommunication industry consider it a threat, and why do they want to get rid of it? It seems to me that this particular provision of statute parallels what we do with gas companies, that we set in place, to some extent, the idea that public entities in unusual circumstances, emergency circumstances or circumstances where the private provider is just doing a lousy job or perhaps has no competition or whatever, we've allowed for unusual procedures whereby the public entity can, in fact, run its own system. And we've apparently done this for telephone systems, either, and I wasn't even aware of that. Why, if this alternative has existed for almost 90...more than 90 years now, what's wrong with keeping that in place, just as a form of leverage? Why do you want to get rid of it, Senator Brashear?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, Senator Beutler, you are correct. It's been there a long time. I think it's 1913 or something like that. You are also correct, it's never been used. For whatever it's worth, the counties no longer care to have the option, and, of course, it does conflict with the concept that we are going to have a standstill and a study as to how we will balance, as a matter of public policy...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...the new technologies and the implementation of the new technologies between public and private entities, particularly where we have public entities doing some things and private entities having made capital investments and doing others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Cudaback, I...did you say one minute?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I did, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So I need to end. But I just point this out as a section that's being repealed, and as a section that follows the model we followed in some other areas, of at least allowing the public entities the alternative, in unusual circumstances, of going to a public system. We have that in our