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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 645

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...of crooks in here. So, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, on the Chambers amendment. Is Senator Beutler on the floor? Senator Beutler, you're recognized. Did you waive? Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this, I know, is the third time that I can speak on this amendment, and I'm not going to move to reconsider. But if you vote for this modest amendment--it takes a very small portion out of the bill--you will be rid of me on this bill. I don't know that I could make a better offer than that. We are in the posterior portions of the session. We have a somewhat lengthy agenda before us today, and there are people who would like the opportunity to get to their proposals, and that is a position I can not only understand, but sympathize with and empathize with. Nevertheless, this bill that is before us does pose a grave situation. A public entity is just that, public. It's owned by the public, it's presumed to operate in the interest of the public. The moratorium that Senator Brashear very capably explains is for a period of two years. When you've got these behemoths in the telecommunications sector, with all of their engineers, their technocrats, their lobbyists, and every other type of person whose expertise is designed to make those operations money makers, how likely is it that a public entity within that two-year period is going to harm or hurt them? Who on this floor, including Senator Brashear, thinks that these public entities are concealing some engineers who already have developed some kind of technology which will put all of these private operations out of business, and they're just waiting for the opportunity to pounce? Well, they could have pounced already. They could be pouncing now. But Senator Brashear and everybody else, even those in the telecommunications industry who want this bill, know such a thing is not going to happen. This is a muscle-flexing bill. This bill is designed to show who is boss, and who runs things in this state. Once again, the ruralies have been bewitched, bebothered, and bewildered. They will stand up, on occasion, as young Senator Flood has done, very capably, I might add. The young man has great potential,