

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

May 31, 2005

LB 645

great potential. In fact, I view him in the same way that Michelangelo may have viewed clay which is going to be shaped into one of the greatest sculptures of all time. (Laughter) Now I'm not praising the clay, I am praising the sculptor. (Laughter) Now...okay, now you better understand. But at any rate, this is one of those bills that I think rural senators, or senators who represent rural interests, should look at very carefully. First of all,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if the bill is not adopted, the interests that you represent are not harmed. If it is adopted, they may be, and may not be. But if there is any question, if there's a tie--in baseball, tie goes to the runner, they say. The tie should go to the people you're to be representing. If you adopt my amendment, the interests that you represent are well protected. The bill can move right on, and they can have their study, and we'll all live happily ever after. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I am one of those ruralies Senator Chambers refers to, and quite frankly, this is not an issue. Broadband over power line, BPL, is not going to solve any of the issues that Senator Loudon brought up, in the rural areas. It's in the testimony from the committee hearing that I asked the question, what's this going to cost? It's going to cost \$5,000 per mile, was the basic estimate of what it would cost to put BPL into rural areas, and they're not going to serve Senator Loudon, Senator Fischer, myself, at \$5,000 per mile. It's not cost-effective for them. This is an urban issue, where you have a concentration of customers, like a Lincoln Electric Service here in Lincoln, where they could lease their infrastructure to a third party and provide this in a concentrated area. We have...we are served, as Senator Loudon said...we have high-speed Internet available in rural Nebraska. Senator Fischer had that question answered for her, I believe, by a provider behind the glass. I have two providers of