

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

May 31, 2005

LB 645

to be harmed within a two-year period from now, if these public entities are permitted, under the law, to pursue the possibility of providing these services. Senator Brashear has mentioned several times, and others have, that the retail end of it is not a matter of concern to anybody. Who is on the receiving end in the retail equation? The user, the public, the consumer. The other aspect goes to the use of what has been called the infrastructure of these public entities, for the purpose ultimately of being a part of a system for providing these services, and there would be competition with these private entities. Is there enough out here for the public and the privates to function and coexist? And I think there is. I do not think, in most instances, there will be direct competition. The only way to find out is to take your hands off and let the system operate. Let's see what these public entities can come up with during this two-year period. If nobody believes that realistically they can come up with any technology that is going to compete against the privates, why, then, put that in the bill? To show who's boss, to show who runs the Legislature, to show how things get done, and which things will and won't get done. Nobody and no interest will be harmed if we remove from this bill that prohibition on the public entities. Your vote on my amendment indicated there are not enough people willing to do that. I hope there are not enough votes to move this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Baker, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, you're recognized to close on AM0316.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This bill is very important to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. We did designate this our number one priority, and I ask that you consider that, because we did sit through hours and hours of testimony, and discussed this bill within the committee, worked with Senator Brashear's staff. I think to not pass this bill in its amended form would be a disservice to the citizens of Nebraska. We need to go ahead and proceed. This is an issue out there that needs addressed, and I certainly urge you to support AM0316, as amended. It's now replaced by AM1334,