

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

June 1, 2005

LB 548

of other things in it, but...for this year. And with some other confusion, I just decided not to take the bill any further. Then last week, actually I was approached to see if I would allow this bill to be used for this endeavor, a public power bond issue, and I said, certainly. You know, we have a very unique situation here in Nebraska, in that, yes, all of our power is public power. And so we the taxpayers really own those utilities districts, and the ratepayers are the power district. And so it's all part of the same pocket that all this comes out of. And so I certainly do support this endeavor. Now, in order to get this kind of a bond rating, of course, there are some very specifics that the bond house insists on. And one of those things is, I believe, some very strong criteria of what will be accepted and what will not be accepted. And how...I do thank Senator Beutler for his comments. But I'm just concerned as to whether that might also change this, allowing bond companies this very specific language on mandates. So I'm a little concerned about Senator Beutler's amendment. I'll certainly listen to Senator Schrock to see what he might have on that. But I know that any changes that we make to this amendment as drawn up might really change the entire bill. With that, however, in looking at the language, I would like to ask Senator Schrock one question, if he would yield, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR JENSEN: There is some language. And when it talks about mandated language, Section 5 defines mandated projects. And I just want to make certain that that means...or as to what it means. It's my understanding that we're talking about mandates on a specific type of public utility, not all utilities, not all entities out there, but a public entity. And that would only be those public entities with mandated projects used in connection with either a new or existing facility related to public power generation, transmission, and distribution. Would you say that would be correct?

SENATOR SCHROCK: You are right, Senator Jensen. This deals only with public power and with power generation, transmission,