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LB 548

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, keep in mind, there's residential users and there's...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Different rates. Yes.

SENATOR SCHROCK: But different rates.

SENATOR JANSSEN: But as long as it's based on kilowatt-hours, that's fine. That's fine. I don't have any other question. I think this will work out just fine. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Schrock. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I'd waive for the moment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler waives his opportunity. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, certainly Senator Beutler has a good idea. I would like to accommodate it. And I will tell you that I am told that if this amendment is adopted, it would jeopardize the rate that could be received. I can tell you that any time a bond like this would be issued, beforehand they would have to comply with public meeting laws. The public would have a chance for input, the ratepayers would. But once they set their rate for the bonds, if this becomes appealable, or if they have to have a hearing afterwards, whether it be 5 days, 10 days, or 24 hours, or whatever, it's my understanding that it jeopardizes the deal with the bond company. Now, doesn't seem quite right, does it, Senator Beutler? That's what I'm told. I have to believe people. We could take a chance, adopt your amendment. It might jeopardize the rates. It might make the rates higher. I don't know the answer to that. I would prefer passing this without your amendment. I think it's good discussion. I commend you for bringing it up, for raising the issue. Nobody likes to shut the public out. But the public will have a chance to comment. And I think you said it yourself--very rarely, after something like this happens, would somebody from the public want to interfere in a case like this, or want to have another say