

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

June 1, 2005

LB 548

within the ten days. I doubt whether that portion would be used if we did adopt it. And if it does jeopardize the rate, I'd rather not do that. Is that fair? And I'd give you the rest of my time, but your light is next, so you can respond if you want.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Mines and Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when this was presented to me, it was presented very simply. I was told this will help the public power districts get a favorable bond rating, it will save money for the customers. Naturally, I like that. But if all of these costs that we're talking about relate to the setting of bond rates, rather than the rates that customers are going to pay, I'm not so sure I feel the same way about it. I like Senator Beutler's amendment. And if requiring fairness, reasonableness, and nondiscriminatory setting of rates is going to jeopardize this bill, this bill doesn't deserve to be passed. I don't care about getting these bond rates. Let me ask Senator Schrock a question or two.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, would the amount saved by getting this supposed favorable bond rate--and we don't know what that is right now--be sufficient to offset any additional cost that the consumer has to pay as a result of this bill?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, I think it would. And you mentioned three things there about...but most of those could be addressed before the board. What you...your concerns, most of that is already in the law, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here's what I'm getting at. The public can talk and talk and talk some more. These people, who are supposed to be listening, can sit there like sometimes members of the committees in the Legislature will do--drowsing, nodding, trying to keep their eyes open, figuring what they're going to do as soon as they get away from these bothersome, pestiferous people, then run out and set any rate that they choose. They