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FLOOR DEBATE

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When customers buy them, the bonds, they know that they're...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...absolutely going to get their money back, so in return for that guarantee, they accept a lower rate of return, a lower rate of interest. So instead of paying X percent on these bonds, OPPD will pay, like, X minus 1 percent. And that, in return, will lower the service...the actual ultimate cost to the customer, over the life of these bonds. So when Senator Chambers asked Senator Schrock what would happen if the bill didn't pass, well, what would happen is that customers of Omaha Public Power District would ultimately pay more to finance these projects that were mandated by the federal government. So again, I rise in opposition of Senator Chambers' amendment. I'm more than willing to help him take some time on this, but I do think that the bill ultimately needs to go forward, and I think Senator Chambers even recognizes that. So again, I think this is an example of how progressive OPPD is. They're always looking out for the customer. They have...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...a history of minimal rate increases, and this bill carries forward that history.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, if I may ask you a question? You want to strike Section 1 of the bill with this amendment? Is that...?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's what the amendment would suggest.

SENATOR SCHROCK: So that would just take the name off of it. So we'd still have a bill, but the bill wouldn't have a name.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay. I'm going to oppose your amendment,