

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

January 19, 2006    LB 548

very helpful in a consumer to realize what they're paying for when they get their bills stated. And of course, if there's a chance that by doing this you are able to use that bonding or that line of revenue to pay for that bond, that's where you will usually get a cheaper bonding rate or cheaper rate of interest. And according to this, this was...I think came forward mostly because, to start with, Omaha Public Power, was my understanding. But there are other power districts in the state that will no doubt use this as time goes on. You have your Nebraska Public Power, and they have some of their generation stations that, in time to come, there's going to be some mandated projects on those where they have to clean them up and bring them around into environmental compliance from time to time. And there needs to be work done on them. So I think anything we can do to help these public power districts and these cooperatives to have a cheaper rate of interest for the people in Nebraska is something that has to be seriously considered. So at the present time, I certainly support this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Thank you, Senator Loudon.    Further discussion?    Senator Schrock.    This will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR SCHROCK:    Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Stuthman, I just wanted to respond a little more. You know very well that our public power districts are elected boards. Some of them are pretty shrewd businessmen, and some of them are dedicated public officials. I think your concerns, although maybe well founded, I have a lot of confidence in those boards, that they are good business managers. And of course, they'll have good counsel. They'll have good business people, business managers from those companies. I'm fairly confident that this will be implemented properly, it will be used properly, there won't be any excesses, and there won't be any games played. I think our public power districts have been very responsible. This could be used by even our rural electric associations, although I can't imagine they would have any items that would make this necessary. It could be used by our municipalities, also, that have their own power generating facilities. So anybody that transport and generates power would