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FLOOR DEBATE

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would have to have a PSAP. They're doing this, as an average, around \$20,000 per county per year. You couldn't staff a PSAP with one person for that in a county. Blaine County, for instance, pays Region 26 \$10,388; Garfield, \$25,000; so on. Tremendous cost savings doing this. And they came down to the hearing we had in Lincoln, I believe their director, and had no complaints. So I want to make sure it's in the record that we expect the Public Service Commission to look long and hard at what they're refunding disbursements for because, quite frankly, we can't...we're not going to have the money to fund all the requests for reimbursement. They're going to have to make some choices here. Go ahead and look at the map. There's another large region there in Senator Fischer's, the west end of her district, and Senator Erdman's. There's, what, seven counties that are all dispatched out of Ogallala, out of Keith County. They have even less costs. And then we've got, in Senator Smith's district, Banner County. And I misspoke the other day, it's the south part of Sioux County is dispatched out of Scotts Bluff County. They're basically doing it for nothing for them. So I can't blame those...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...guys for going in, certainly. My point is, if the Fischer amendment is adopted, she's exactly right, it strips the consolidation piece out of the bill. It remains the 70-cent surcharge on the lines outside of metropolitan Omaha. And I want to make sure the PSC understands that we expect them to make some hard calls here when people come in and want reimbursed, the money is not there, they're going to have to make some choices if we adopt Senator Fischer's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Cunningham followed by Senator Brown.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. Oh, I'd like to thank Senator Baker for the work that he's done on this issue. But I would tell you, I am going to support Senator Fischer's amendment here. I do believe that this issue is best left up to the local supervisors and