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

April 4, 2006 LB 1249

the lobbying that you have received matches the simplicity of what this bill is about, or are you confused by the stories that you've heard and the hypotheticals? Because there's really only two ideas in the whole bill, and they're simple. And the stuff you hear out here is subterfuge and camouflage for two simple First idea: You're an investor-owned utility; you've ideas. got pipes in the ground. Since we've already said we don't want to have two systems of piping, we're going to do what the majority of other states do, we're going to do what this state does in electricity, we're going to do what this state does for telephones, we're going to do what this state does for radio...for water, rather...and we're going to say, if the pipe in the ground is yours, that's your area. Now it takes us a couple of pages to do it. We got to get some maps, we got to get some information, we got a time line to do that, we've got a little follow up that says, look what happens, if in fact, they're both in the same area? How are we going to resolve those conflicts? But that's the basic idea. It takes about six or eight of the pages in this 15-page bill--one idea. You've already got some pipes in the ground; that area is yours. why do we do that? So that we don't have multiple pipes. Look up and see a telephone line. We got competing companies with two telephone sets of poles? No. Now where you can do it by wireless, we got competition. But where we got telephone poles, there's one telephone pole. Electricity coming to your house--got more than one line coming to your house? No, you got one line coming to your house. And why do we do this? For infrastructure, because digging up the ground and putting up poles is expensive, and in fact, competition would be more inefficient than a regulated monopoly. So we've got a monopoly, we're going to regulate it, and we're going to acknowledge that. And we're going to say, you got pipes in the ground? They're yours. And where your pipes exist, somebody else doesn't get to bring pipes in. They're yours. Simple idea. Here's the second idea that's in the bill: Because there kept being a fight in Omaha between MUD and Aquila on the boundary of Omaha and Sarpy County, we passed a number of years ago under the leadership of Paul Hartnett a method for solving essentially Sarpy County problems, LB 78. It says this: You got virgin territory. There aren't any pipes there yet, so our principle that says, hey, you've got pipes down, that area is yours, that doesn't