

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

under the Public Service Commission, under a tough set of powers that they have, which we did with the help of everybody in the lobby, including the League. MUD stepped aside, because they saw what was coming, but they didn't object and the industry said yes. Cities get to regulate their own; MUD gets to regulate itself--two interesting provisions for the interested parties that are out there. Heard from the League? Have you heard from the League? Bet you have. We got 18 city-owned operations, about 18. You know what this bill limits them to? There isn't a limit in the bill for cities; had one last year. By the way, in the intervening year from last to this year, we knew this issue was coming, right? So who talked to me? MUD come to talk to me? No. Oh, we did have a conversation to explain how I'd been wrong in the previous debate, but any proposals? No. Any proposals from the League? No. Interim study--any proposals? No. Mike Friend let this...opened this...you know, opened the floor, let them do it. Nothing came forward. But between last year and this year, I had an idea. You know what? All right, give the cities what they asked for.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Let the cities go any place that is not already occupied by somebody else. Let the cities go anywhere that is not occupied by somebody else, and don't...and you don't have to ask Public Service Commission approval. All you're doing is voluntarily serving a need that exists and nobody else is serving it, and cities, you can go anywhere. And yet the League still opposes the bill. I don't get it. Last point: MUD has absolute control of their boundaries, absolute control of their boundaries. I'll say it a third time: MUD has absolute power to determine their boundaries. You cannot take and limit somebody and rob them of an opportunity, when they have absolute power to determine their boundaries. Look it up in the statutes; I'll read it before the day is over. You can't take something away from them, as far as opportunity, if they can go anywhere they want to, which is what the law allows, and my bill...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Landis.