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LB 1249

of the discussions that I had with individuals, that I hadn't still...had yet to hear what I would consider a compelling reason to move with a major piece of what I would call reform legislation like this, to move something like this out of committee. I asked last year on the record, when we were actually talking about a different bill, have we identified a problem? Have we identified a problem here? And that was part of my issue. I think we identified one with Hastings, Lockland, and Kinder Morgan, which by the way, has since been resolved. But because we have statutes in place to deal with this stuff right now, to deal with these issues right now--maybe not adequately, but I'm going to get to that in a second--because we have statutes to deal with this stuff right at this moment, should we move in a direction of what I would call significant reform, or should we deal with the statutes that handle this area and try to tweak those, if necessary, and try to do something to make those more effective? Quite frankly, I do think that there probably are some inadequacies with the current statutes. That leads me to this point: Those inadequacies, Sections 57-1301 through 57-1306, none of these sections would, as Senator Landis pointed out earlier, ostensibly be applied unless there was a jurisdictional utility out there that raised an issue or a complaint on a particular contract that was occurring. That is what my amendment, AM2708, deals with. In my view, it deals with those inadequacies. Here's what I mean. AM2708, it removes all the statewide provisions of LB 1249, the parts of the bill that established service territories for jurisdiction of utilities. All of the provisions creating maps detailing who serves what, where, and whom are eliminated. The element of the bill creating a new bureaucracy is deleted. They weren't really necessary, because there aren't any competing border issues. Like we said, the Hastings/Lockland issue has been cleared up. LB 1249 provided little if any additional protection for city-owned utility systems. Their rights are governed by current law. We retain and reverse the provisions of LB 78. I'm taking seven sections out of Senator Landis' bill and I'm gutting half the fish. LB 78, Sections 11 through 17, are provisions of the old LB 78, which are being amended and transferred into the State Natural Gas Regulation Act. LB 78 was that 1997 bill which was worked out between MUD and Aquila to govern boundary disputes in the Omaha area. Unfortunately,