

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

the PSC only acts after, as Senator Landis pointed out earlier, there's a complaint. This amendment responds to one of the major complaints. The requirement for preapproval will delay projects and add tons of paperwork for every new pipeline. With AM2708, most of the approvals become automatic. First, if the project is a--let's use an example--a MUD expansion inside Omaha city limits or within three miles of those boundaries; or in other words, the extraterritorial jurisdiction, in Douglas County MUD can proceed without the need to file with the PSC, and without the need for commission approval. Second, it is conclusively presumed that MUD serves any area where it has used eminent domain to acquire an existing system; i.e., Elkhorn, okay? Finally, if no one complains about a filing, MUD or Aquila, either of those groups, in particular, within 15 business days of the date when the application is made public, the utility can proceed with the extension. It's real simple. If there is any confusion--and to me, Senator Landis said this bill is not confusing. Quite honestly, I think he's right, but I also think that there is...that there are some elements that are a little bit cloudy. Here's my point: It is not...some of these groups and some of these entities need some sort of express authority. They need somebody to say, you do this and you do it now. If you don't, this is what the alternative, or this is what the repercussions are going to be. This bill does not necessarily do that, at least those sections that I'm pulling out of there. Here's what I'm getting at. Let me sum it up, and really, I'm taking this to a vote. I'm offering us a third option here, and it's a serious third option. It's been talked about before; it's been talked about by everybody in the lobby that Senator Landis has brought out. I might add I haven't heard anybody that likes this idea. I just thought I'd throw that in there. Honestly, I haven't heard anybody that likes this idea, not even any of my friends in here. But the bottom line is, this is a third option. Here's your first option: You kill LB 1249, and we come back again. As Senator Landis understands this, as most of the rest of you do, too, some of these things don't happen overnight. Some of these things take years. I think Senator Landis would prefer that it not. That's your one option, is to go after LB 1249, submarine it, and blow it up. Second option is this, in my view: You roll with LB 1249 and you get some things that you