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LB 1249

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I've not been on the committee that's dealt with this, so I don't have the level of technical discussion that others have brought and have done a very good job of outlining aspects of the bill. So I come to it with a...kind of a level from both the ground and the air. I live in an area that's had controversy in my district, and I also know that as a state, we have kind of a mixed system, and because we have public power and because we have, or at least natural gas in the metropolitan Omaha area and cities operate it, as well as private companies, it is...it has been a problem. I've been here nine years. I think my hair has turned grayer than Senator Redfield's has in that amount of time, and this comes back year after year after year. I guess I feel an obligation this year, with 20 of us leaving who've debated this off and on, on many of these issues, and we've picked at it and done a few things around the perimeters of it to get a few issues dealt with, that this is the year that we ought to finish up that process. Senator Landis has negotiated and come forward with some middle ground, and we should be setting this to rest. We shouldn't be dragging it on another nine years with a whole lot of new people. This is the time when we should bring clarity to the issue, so that people can plan, so that companies can plan, so that cities can plan, so that the public knows what's going into what areas. I think it only helps lend clarity to an issue that has been very difficult. I don't think we should just do it like we've been doing every other year and try to back it off, based on picking at a middle ground solution. And with that, I'd like to yield any time to Senator Landis, if he would like to have it.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Landis,...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Do you want some time?

SENATOR BAKER: ...Senator Thompson is offering her time to you, and that would be 2 minutes, 45 seconds.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. My light's on. I think I'll take my turn in the order.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Senator Thompson, would you want your time