

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

staff? You don't have it, do you? Neither do I. That claim has been on the table and it's totally unproved.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I think now we're getting somewhere. I look at the committee statement and I listen to my colleagues get up and talk about the bill. The only person in support of the bill was Aquila, the investor-owned. I listened to my colleagues talk about how we need to have a competition. Senator Pedersen, in reality, exclusive territories would eliminate competition. It would eliminate competition. You tell me if there's an exclusive territory for one entity, how would there be competition? There wouldn't. That doesn't even make sense. Somebody else mentioned that local control...it would eliminate local control in certain areas. I talked to the League. Right now, Nebraska City, they serve an area outside their zoning jurisdiction. If this bill passes, LB 1249, the Public Service Commission could stop it. I think Senator Landis would concede that. I realize that there's...I've not seen information, either, regarding how much the rates would increase for MUD customers. I've not seen it; I'll admit that. But if you think about where I live, the infrastructure has been in the ground for 100 years. As I understand it, there are hundreds of miles of cast-iron pipe in the ground in my area. That pipe has to be pulled up out of the ground and replaced with some sort of a plastic pipe. If...and out in the urban areas, the costs of the infrastructure, as I understand it, is lower than it is in the inner city. So it seems to make sense to me that if MUD cannot expand with the city and go out to the lower infrastructure cost areas, that the costs would be driven up for those areas of the city that are old and have to have the infrastructure replaced. That makes sense to me. That's a compelling argument in my mind. Have I seen numbers? I have not. And by the way, I do want to say that I will support Senator Friend's amendment, and we haven't really had a clear discussion about that. But I would suggest, respectfully, that this issue, this proposal is a solution looking for a problem. Senator Landis' goals are