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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1249

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. So the area in which a utility was serving on the first of the year, I believe it's January 1, 2006, that is the area that they can serve after the bill goes into place; is that correct?

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, and...yes. But see, that's where a lot...what I believe is...where the confusion lies. I think that there are folks that are saying out there, we need you to tell us more in regard to that issue. So, I mean, am I answering that directly enough, I guess?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, the way I read it, if an entity is providing service in a particular area on the first of the year, that's where they can provide service after the bill passes.

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, that is the bottom line, I would say the bottom line.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Now...

SENATOR FRIEND: That's their territory, bottom line, but there are...

SENATOR BOURNE: There are some exceptions where they can expand.

SENATOR FRIEND: Absolutely.

SENATOR BOURNE: There's some criteria where they can petition the PSC to expand that, but in large part, that area is frozen after the bill is passed. Now somebody else in the body touched upon this. Is there, if we give them these territories, is there a corresponding obligation to serve? And the reason I'm asking, I handed out a map. It's largely red, some blue and yellow, and then some white areas. Is there a corresponding obligation, when you have an exclusive territory, to serve that territory?

SENATOR FRIEND: Yes, accord...LB 1249, if it's economically feasible.