

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

Qwest Communications and Qwest has responded, and that whole matter will be continued to be adjudicated until that customer is properly served under Qwest's obligation to serve, pursuant to their defined service territory. That's the way it works. In the natural gas arena, with passage of this bill we'll get that same concept into the law. Under Section 10, when you have a defined service territory, the quid pro quo is you also have an obligation to serve the customers in that territory. What about the customers who don't currently have natural gas service? What if they want service, too? The first obligation falls to the company that has that service territory. But if it's not economically feasible, then you move on to subsection (2) of Section 10, which opens the door to other providers. Another provider could say, okay, MUD, you can't do it because it's not economically feasible for you to do it, but we'll step up and we'll do it, because you've refused to do so. If it's not feasible for them, then the customer simply can't be served. There's no guarantee of service, and Senator Friend made that point very well. There's no guarantee that just because you say I want gas service you're going to get it. You may not, because it may not make economic sense to do so. So it's a softer obligation to serve in this case, in natural gas, but it makes sense, because it's a large capital needed to serve customers with natural gas service. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Further discussion? Senator Hudkins, followed by Senator Bourne.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. If Senator Landis is within the sound of my voice, I would like to ask him a question. And while he is, hopefully, coming back to the floor, I'll make a few statements. I am thoroughly confused. I talk to people from MUD, and I get one story. I talk to people from Aquila, and I get another story. I talk to people from the state chamber; I don't even know how they're interested in this, and I hear something from them. So...and I have an all-electric home. What do I know about gas? Just like the guy who was jumping out of a plane and his parachute didn't open, and he was flying, falling down to the earth. And as he was coming down, this man was coming up from the ground. And the man that was falling asked the man who was